

THE  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME XXXI

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TOPSFIELD, MASS.  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
1951



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THE PERKINS PRESS

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## PREFACE

The three hundredth anniversary celebration was a splendid example of co-operation by everybody to make the event a success. People very willingly served on committees and did all they were asked to do, and that little more which makes things go. Those not actually involved painted up their houses, mowed their lawns and trimmed up so the town looked its best. Everybody felt very proud and happy about the event.

This book can give only the facts of the celebration. It is not possible to reflect the happiness and excitement. The General Committee turned over all its unexpended balance and the Historical Society a larger sum from the profits on the sale of the souvenir plates to help pay for the publication.

We are proud that this book could be printed in town and the Committee wishes to thank all participants in the exercises who supplied us with the material of which it is made up.

### PERMANENT RECORD COMMITTEE

Mrs. Alice G. Dow, *Chairman*  
Miss Gladys F. Burnham  
James Duncan Phillips  
Benjamin B. Towne  
William A. Perkins  
Robert K. Peirce

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Some of the photographs for the illustrations were made by Robert K. Peirce and others by Zaharis of Ipswich.

THE  
CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INCORPORATION  
OF THE TOWN OF  
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
AUGUST 13-19, 1950





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## PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

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The warrant for the annual Town Meeting held March 1 & 2, 1948 contained the following article: Twentieth.—To see if the Town will vote to appoint a Committee to make preparations for the 300th anniversary celebration of the Town of Topsfield to be held in 1950.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and voted that the moderator appoint a committee of ten, with power to fill vacancies, to make a study of a possible program for the observance of the 300th anniversary celebration of the Town of Topsfield to be held in 1950, and report to the next annual town meeting.

The warrant for the annual Town Meeting held March 7-8, 1949 contains the following:—Twentieth. To hear and act on the report of the committee making preparations for the 300th anniversary celebration of the Town of Topsfield to be held in 1950, appropriate money, and pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Pursuant to the vote of the Town under Article 20 of the last Town Meeting, the following Committee of ten was appointed by the Moderator to make preparation for the 300th Anniversary Celebration of the Town in 1950 and submit a plan for consideration at the next Annual Meeting:—George M. Tilton, William A. Perkins, Sargent H. Wellman, Mrs. Alice G. Dow, Benjamin B. Towne, Raymond S. Roberts, Robert I. Woodbury, Leslie S. Ray, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Smith, and Leroy W. Gleason.

Mr. Gleason declined to serve and William C. Long was appointed to take his place.

The first meeting of the committee was held June 13, 1948. Five other meetings have been held.

We recommend that the Town appoint the following Committee to have full charge of the 300th Anniversary Celebration of the Town in 1950:

Archer Andrews  
 Franklin Balch  
 Adrian L. Bouchard  
 Horton D. Bradstreet  
 Miss Gladys F. Burnham  
 Mrs. Florence V. Callahan  
 James K. Castle  
 Mrs. Katherine S. Choate  
 Edward F. Culliton  
 John W. Dwinell  
 Thomas E. Elliott  
 Mrs. Evelyn L. Fales  
 Andrew M. Farrar  
 Harry W. Fuller  
 Mrs. Margaret T. Gamans  
 Salvatore Gangi  
 Harris C. Giles  
 John R. Gould

William C. Guay  
 Robert S. Ives  
 Harold F. Jordan  
 Henry F. Long  
 Mrs. Phyllis C. Means  
 Mrs. Ellen E. O'Keefe  
 Myron F. Peabody  
 Charles E. Pethybridge  
 Mrs. Nannie B. Phillips  
 Mrs. Hope F. Ray  
 Arlo L. Roberts  
 Warren F. Rockwell  
 Miss Athelene F. Stevens  
 Mrs. Catherine L. Torrey  
 Conrad J. S. Tronerud  
 John R. Walsh  
 Ernest W. Watson  
 Henry C. Williams

We also recommend that Albert M. Dodge, the only member of the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee now living in town, be Honorary Chairman of the 300th Anniversary Committee.

We suggest that this Committee be given the power to choose its own officers, add to the committees and fill vacancies as they occur. We also suggest that an Executive Committee of three or five members be appointed.

We also submit the following suggestions for the consideration of that Committee: That the Celebration be held during the month of August, 1950. That the Churches of the Town be asked to take cognizance of the Celebration. That historical pageants be held. That athletic games and sports be arranged. That a banquet be served. That they give consideration for a reception or dance to be held during the Celebration. That a permanent record be made and that the town appropriate the sum of \$1,000 at this time.

Everyone of this Committee was pleased with the suggestions made by Mr. William Cowen in regard to historical highlights in the early settling of Topsfield.

Respectfully submitted,

George M. Tilton	William C. Long
Raymond S. Roberts	William A. Perkins
Benjamin B. Towne	Robert I. Woodbury
Sargent H. Wellman	Alice G. Dow
Leslie S. Ray	Elizabeth M. Smith



Recommended by the Finance Committee and voted that the report of the committee be accepted, that the persons named therein serve as members of a new committee to have full charge of the 300th Anniversary Celebration of the town in 1950 be elected; that the sum of \$1,000.00 be appropriated to defray the expenses of this new committee, and that this new committee report to a special Town Meeting to be called for the purpose.

At the annual Town meeting held in March 1949, \$3,500.00 was appropriated out of surplus revenue to be expended for the 300th anniversary celebration.

The Committees as finally organized consisted of the following persons who had full charge of making the preparations for a suitable observance of the anniversary:

### 300th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEES

Chairman: Curtis Campbell

Honorary Chairman: Albert M. Dodge

Executive Committee: Charles E. Pethybridge, *Chairman*,  
Edward F. Culliton, John W. Peirce, Sargent H. Wellman, William C. Long.

Permanent Secretary: Athelene F. Stevens

Treasurer: Mrs. Leslie B. Fales

Church Service Committee: Rev. Roderic W. Hurlburt, Rev. Joseph F. Bracken, Andrew M. Farrar, Edward F. Culliton.

Publicity Committee: Warren F. Rockwell, *Chairman*, William S. Ballard, Conrad S. Tronerud

Sports Committee: Warren F. Rockwell, *Chairman*, Miss Grace McLean, Secretary, Robert I. Woodbury, Thomas E. Elliott, Edward T. Welch, A. Belman Carter, Dr. Roger J. Edwards.

Banquet Committee: Adrien L. Bouchard, *Chairman*, Harry W. Fuller, George M. Tilton, John R. Gould, Mrs. Leslie S. Ray, Mrs. Raymond W. Callahan, Mrs. Thomas A. O'Keefe, Jr., Mrs. James W. Wildes.

Ball Committee: Robert S. Ives, *Chairman*, Salvatore Gangi, John R. Walsh, Harris C. Giles, Mrs. Godfrey G. Torrey, Mrs. Leland Means, Clarence H. Kneeland.

Permanent Record Committee: Mrs. Alice G. Dow, *Chairman*, Miss Gladys F. Burnham, James Duncan Phillips, Benjamin B. Towne, William A. Perkins, Robert K. Peirce.

Finance Committee: William C. Guay, *Chairman*, Raymond S. Roberts, Ernest W. Watson.

Reception Committee: Gilbert L. Steward, *Chairman*, Andy F. Jackman, George L. Goodridge, Mrs. Katherine S. Choate, William A. Coolidge.

Decorations and Signs Committee: John J. Hurley, *Chairman*, Mrs. Robert K. Peirce, Charles P. Poor, Mrs. William S. Ballard, L. Palmer Lavalley, Arlo L. Roberts, Myron F. Peabody.

Open Houses and Incidental Events Committee: Elmer P. Foye, *Chairman*, Mrs. Alexander Houston, Secretary, Mrs. Elmer P. -Foye, Daniel R. Fuller, Mrs. John B. Gamans, Miss Amelia H. Plummer, Mrs. M. Theresa Plummer, Mrs. Russell C. Smith, Mrs. James Duncan Phillips, James K. Castle, William B. Cowen, Eugene M. Dow.

Souvenir Program Committee: Peter Black, *Chairman*, Mrs. Alice G. Dow, Honorary Chairman, Norman Worgan, Business Manager, Henry C. Williams, Bessie B. Perkins, William A. Perkins, Clayton F. Rock, William Lewis, Mrs. David Lampert, Mrs. William C. Abbott.

Fireworks Committee: William C. Abbott

Concessions and Fund Raising Committee: Harold P. Mills, Jr., *Chairman*, William N. Benson, Browning Marean, Robert J. Crossman, Andrew M. Farrar, George W. Day, Mrs. George W. Day, Thomas McGann, Frank A. Gallagher, Mrs. Harold P. Mills, Jr.

Grounds Committee: Howard L. Stultz, *Chairman*, J. Fred Morissey, Nicholas D'Agostino, Thomas M. Ralph, Roger Peabody, Arlo L. Roberts.

The aggregate membership of the above committees is large, and taking into account the work of the various organizations of the town either as contributors of floats to the parade or as sponsors of special events, it is expected that the celebration will provide something for nearly everyone to do.

The committee on decorations and signs has, among other duties, the responsibility of working toward the best possible appearance of the town during the summer of 1950 and especially during the tercentenary week. It is hoped that everyone will cooperate in this effort, as well as in all other ways, so as to make the anniversary a great credit to the town and a richly memorable event.

## TOPSFIELD TRICENTENARY PROGRAM

### SUNDAY

- 10:00-10.45 A.M.—Mass and Benediction of the Most Blessed  
Sacrament St. Rose Church
- 11.00 A.M.-12 M.—Tricentenary Service  
Congregational Church  
Sermon, "The Wells Our Fathers Dug"
- 12.30 P.M. —Home-Cooked Chicken Dinner  
Parish House
- 3.30 P.M. —Historical and Literary Exercises:  
Greetings from Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.  
Historical Address by James D. Phillips  
Selections by Beverly Men's Singing Club  
Tent on School Grounds

### WEDNESDAY

- 2.45- 5.30 P.M.—Children's Parade and Country Fair  
Village Green
- 5.00- 7.00 P.M.—Old-Fashioned Bean Supper  
Tent on School Grounds
- 8.30 - 12 P.M. —Country Dance, Joe Perkins Caller Town Hall

### THURSDAY

- 1.00- 5.00 P.M.—Open House and Gardens and  
Enactment of Historical Incidents  
Capen House, School, Library, Town Hall,  
Several Old Residences and Other Places

### FRIDAY

- 3.00- 5.00 P.M.—Sports Program for Children  
6 to 12 Years of Age School Athletic Field
- 9.00 P.M.-1.00 A.M.—Tricentenary Costume Ball  
Tent on School Grounds

## SATURDAY

- 1.30- 3.15 P.M.—Tercentenary Parade With Reviewing Stand  
Main and Other Streets
- 3.15- 5.30 P.M.—Sports Program for Older Children  
School Athletic Field
- 5.00- 7.00 P.M. Band Concert Village Green
- 5.30- 7.30 P.M.—Banquet With Greetings from Distinguished  
Guests Tent on School Grounds
- 8.15 P.M. —Baseball Game Under Lights: Topsfield vs.  
N. E. Hoboes (Former College and All  
Stars)<sup>1</sup> School Athletic Field
- 10.30 P.M. —Fireworks Display<sup>1</sup> School Athletic Field

The following account is from the Salem Evening News:

'A cool day with bright sunshine provided a perfect setting for the opening of the town's 300th anniversary celebration. Former residents, relatives and friends began to arrive at an early hour for the Church services and subsequent events.

Both Churches were filled to capacity. A high mass and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, with Rev. Joseph F. Bracken, pastor of the Church, as celebrant, was held at St. Rose's at 10 o'clock. Mrs. Byron Bennett was the soprano soloist and Byron Bennett was organist. Flower decorations were arranged by John Hurley and new Papal and American flags were donated by Richard and Patrick Collins of Danvers. The following remarks were made by Rev. Joseph F. Bracken:

I am delighted to be associated with the people of Topsfield. Since my appointment as Pastor of St. Rose's Parish on December 28, 1949, I have been impressed by the friendliness, charity and good will of the people in this community. Such harmony, peace and love are needed in the world for happiness. Hence success has blessed Topsfield because of this friendly spirit among the young and old.

We rejoice in the celebration of Topsfield's 300th anniversary as a town. We begin this week of jubilation by offering a High Mass of Thanksgiving for the many favors bestowed upon our community. We beseech Almighty God for a continuance of His blessings upon the people of Topsfield.

<sup>1</sup>Postponed to Tuesday, Aug. 22d on account of rain.

**R**ELIGIOUS SERVICE AT THE CON-  
GREGATIONAL CHURCH, SUNDAY,  
AUGUST THIRTEENTH, NINETEEN  
HUNDRED FIFTY, IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF TOPSFIELD, MASSACHU-  
SETTS. ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸ ❸



## Order of Worship

Organ Prelude: Siciliano  
Vision

*Bach  
Bibl.*

Choral Prelude: The Heavens Resound

*Beethoven*

Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise No. 1: Holy, Holy, Holy

Prayer of Approach to God, and Response

Responsive Reading No. 647: For Forefathers' Day

Gloria Patri

Prayer of Confession, and Response

Anthem: The Radiant Morn

*Woodward*

Scripture Reading: Joshua 24: 1-3, 13-24

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition, followed by the  
Lord's Prayer

Offertory: Tripartita

*Handel*

Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Hymn of Devotion: Anniversary Hymn (to tune No. 182)<sup>1</sup>

God of our fathers! we adore  
The grace which led them here,  
To build an altar to thy name,  
And worship in thy fear.

We thank thee for the father's deeds  
Inscribed on history's page;  
We thank thee for their earnest faith  
Our goodly heritage.

Built on thine everlasting truth,  
Sustained by love divine,  
This ancient church has held its way  
Through all the storms of time.

God of our fathers! lead us on  
Through all the years to come;  
And with the ransomed throng at last  
Gather us safely home.

—Mrs. Ada B. Dow

<sup>1</sup>Written for the 250th anniversary celebration.



Sermon: The Wells Our Fathers Dug

*Genesis 26:18*

Prayer of Consecration, and Response

Hymn of Consecration No. 220: Faith of Our Fathers

Benediction, and Response

Organ Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in E Minor

*Bach*

---

A roll call of those present who had attended the 250th anniversary was answered by twenty-five. Special recognition was given to Manuel Castle, a former resident, who returned to sing with the Choir as he did fifty years ago. Special music by the choir was directed by Mrs. Francis N. Carter, organist.

Flowers in the sanctuary were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Herman W. Balentine. A new Christian flag, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood P. Balentine, and a new American flag given by the Women's Relief Corps and others, were displayed.

As part of the Tercentenary program, the Village Guild will serve a chicken dinner in the Parish House this noon.

It is planned that our church will be open for visitation on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week. In the vestry will be a display of articles of religious and historical interest.

## SERMON

### THE WELLS OUR FATHERS DUG

BY RODERIC W. HURLBURT

MINISTER OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

---

“And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father.”

—*Genesis 26:18a*

We read in the book of Genesis of a time when the nomadic chieftain Isaac was wandering about between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, making camp at various oases, taking time to rest his family and his retinue of servants, and time to feed and water his flocks and herds. His journeyings took him to the same district, on the borders of Philistia, where his father Abraham had been before him. Abraham's men had dug a number of wells thruout the area, but the Philistines, traditional enemies of Abraham and his tribe, had filled the wells with stones and rubbish. And we read that “Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father.”

Today, we are come to dig again the wells our fathers dug. Beginning today, and continuing thruout the week, the people of Topsfield are to re-trace the steps of their forebears. Some of those present today are the lineal descendants of the early Puritan settlers, who established such towns as Topsfield and Salem and Boston and Ipswich. Others of us are the spiritual descendants of those Puritan forebears. It is for all of us to search about in the history of early New England, to discover those wells which our fathers dug, which are still of value for us today.

Not all the wells of our fathers were wells from which we care to drink. There were wells in those early days that gave forth bitter water. For instance, there was the well of intolerance. We find among the Puritans of three centuries ago no desire for religious liberty. They had come from England to America in order to worship God as they believed God wanted to be worshipped, but they would brook no way other than their own. They had come to set up a *theocratic state*—a church-ordered society in which God's will should be done on



earth. But no outsiders were wanted. People of other persuasions should stay elsewhere. This was a Puritan state which God's people were establishing in New England; everyone must conform to Puritan ways, or suffer punishment and probable exile. No heresies were tolerated among the Puritans. The leaders of the colony believed that they had laid hold on God's eternal truths, and that any deviation from those truths was fraught with peril. Baptists were driven to Rhode Island; Quakers were flogged and hanged; Anglicans were sent back to England.

Along with this intolerance, this deep-seated conviction that they—the Puritans—were right and all others wrong, went a close scrutiny and regulation of individual conduct. Private life was almost impossible. Reporting to the clergy or to the magistrates any unseemly conduct on the part of one's neighbors was both a civic and a religious duty. This led to all manner of tale-bearing, gossip, and small meannesses. The style of dress a woman wore, the manner of a man's speech, whether a person worked or idled—all these things were grist for the mills of neighborly tongues and Puritan regimentation.

Another of the wells from which our fathers drank, and which we want to avoid because it yields bitter water, was the well of class distinction. Our Puritan forebears had no idea of establishing a democracy, not as we understand the word. Society was stratified. Voting in public matters was limited to male members of the church. Later, when the early colonial charter was revoked and a new charter granted, the requirement of church-membership was omitted. Instead, the franchise was granted to all freeholders whose income amounted to forty pounds a year, and to inhabitants who owned property worth one hundred pounds. So, a property qualification took the place of the religious qualification, and what democracy there was in the colony was of a very limited type.

A third unsavory well from which our forefathers drank long and deep was the well of ignorance and superstition. Quite obviously, it is unfair for us to judge that period of three centuries ago by modern standards. The last three hundred years have been a period of phenomenal progress in human knowledge, and in mankind's mastery of the physical world. For that very reason, it is almost impossible for us to imagine ourselves in the mental atmosphere of seventeenth-century New England. It is true that among the Puritan leaders were many of the best-educated men of England. Also,

it is true that New England very early established an educational system—consisting of elementary schools, grammar schools, and Harvard College—which later became a model for the rest of the country. Still, even at its highest, human knowledge in those days was very limited. Many of the rank-and-file among the populace could neither read nor write. Superstition—as a part of the prevailing religion—held sway over a large portion of men's minds. It was this ignorance and superstition underlying the entire life of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which made possible the witchcraft tragedy of the 1690's.

These are some of the wells of bitter water from which our fathers drank. When people talk loosely of "the good old days", they are usually talking thoughtlessly, without regard to what were the actual conditions in past generations. Not only the Puritans of New England, but virtually the whole human race, have made immeasurable strides forward during these past three centuries, in the areas of increased tolerance, a broader concept and practice of democracy, and human knowledge.

But there are other wells from which our fathers drank which gave forth good water, water which a thirsty society needs today. This is not a reference to the drought of the past two summers, but a reference to the social and moral crisis in which the world finds itself in this mid-century year. We need to dig once more the wells from which our forefathers drank, that we may discover those influences in early colonial society which produced men of stalwart character and a civilization which, we believe, has grown better thru the years.

The outstanding characteristic of our Puritan forebears was their implicit faith in God. This was the *one underlying factor* in their lives. They soaked up awareness of God from the intellectual and religious atmosphere around them, just as naturally as they breathed in the air from the physical atmosphere. We can hardly say that being religious was second-nature to them; it was almost their first nature. Just as the writers of the Old Testament pictured the Hebrews as God's chosen people; so did the Puritan colonists in New England think of themselves as God's chosen people.

Looking back from the perspective of the mid-point of the Twentieth Century, the life of the early Puritans appears to have been very grim. Life had this grimness because of the things God expected of his people. God did not approve of fancy or elaborate dress. He did not approve of decorated

churches or an elaborate ritual. He disapproved of musical instruments in a religious service, or undue levity at any time. On the other hand, there were things that God did require. He required regular attendance at church services. He expected his people to observe the Sabbath—from Saturday evening to Monday morning—in the strictest manner. And God required of his elect lives that were morally above reproach. These were the positive features of colonial life, growing out of the colonists' ever-present consciousness of God.

Alongside his belief in God, the colonist was afflicted with an equally vivid belief in the devil. This was a heritage from medieval Catholic theology which the Puritan dissenters had not yet thrown off. It is not consistent with their common practice of basing all belief and conduct on the teachings of the Bible. The Bible abounds in references to God—the Bible *is the book about God*—but in the entire Bible can be found only a handful of references to a Satan. Such references as do occur do not agree as to the characteristics of such an individual. But to the early Puritans, Satan was just as real as God.

This belief in Satan is classed by most moderns as a superstition, along with the fear of walking under a ladder or starting an important enterprise on Friday. But the Satan-superstition, which held such a firm grip on men's minds three hundred years ago, provided the background for the witchcraft episode in Essex County. The current belief was that a woman could sell herself to Satan, and that he would thereupon give her power to perform all manner of supernatural stunts; inducing pain and sickness, causing fires to break out, bringing diseases among cattle, etc. A *man* who thus sold himself to the devil was called a wizard. Also, it was believed that Satan had a host of lesser imps and demons to do his bidding. Any student of the times knows the tragedy that befell Topsfield and other towns, when nineteen people paid with their lives for this credulity. Still, there is a certain value in this belief in a personal devil, a value which we would do well to retain, even while discarding the irrational aspects of the doctrine.

Also basic in the beliefs of our spiritual ancestors was their acceptance of the Bible as the supreme authority in the religious, moral, and social spheres. The Bible was thot of as the supreme revelation of God, and almost as the sole revelation of God. Of course, this meant the Bible as the

Puritan clergy interpreted it. The interpretation of an Anne Hutchinson, or a Mary Dyer, or a priest of the Roman Catholic Church—such interpretations were heresy. The big mistake of those early Puritan divines, in their exegesis, was that they found in the Bible too much of the old Hebrew theocratic state, and not enough of the justice of the prophets and the mercy of the Christ. They also overlooked other, extra-Biblical sources of the divine revelation. Even though surrounded by the scenic beauty of ocean and field and forest, those early settlers were singularly lacking in appreciation of all this beauty, and only a scattered few appeared to sense God as the great artist back of it. Likewise, they were suspicious of any person's claim to a divine revelation within the individual. This was the issue between Anne Hutchinson and the Puritan divines; when Mrs. Hutchinson claimed to be receiving a direct revelation from God, her words were anathema and she was banished from the colony.

However, our early fathers did see God in the outworkings of history. God as revealed in the history of the Old Testament period was very real to them, and they thot of themselves as being God's agents for creating a divinely-ordained society in the Seventeenth Century.

Not often expressed in words, but inherent in the course of events, was a firm belief in the worth of the individual. Regimentation was tried, as we have seen. Individuals had very little freedom to express their separate preferences and convictions in matters of dress, speech, labor, or worship. But this regimentation quickly broke down, under the pressure of the individualism which always lies latent in a people. Probably the intolerance and arrogance of the Puritans reached its peak in 1659-60, when four Quakers were hanged in Boston, having returned to spread their doctrines, after being repeatedly warned and driven away. It was only fourteen years later that a Quaker meeting was organized in Boston. Within half a generation, persecution had given way to acceptance. The walls of regimentation were crumbling, and the right of the individual to follow the promptings of his own conscience were receiving recognition.

Other attacks on the closed system of thot maintained by the Puritans were launched by Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams. Mrs. Hutchinson—because she was a mystic—and Roger Williams—because he had Baptist leanings—were both banished, and both established themselves in what later became Rhode Island. That section around Narragansett



Bay became a haven for non-conformists of every sort, and was one of the real proving-grounds of our American democracy. From Rhode Island, liberal ideas were constantly trickling back into Massachusetts, helping to break down the regimentation which existed here.

Another of the wells dug by our fathers sent forth the water of discontent. This is another word for *enlightenment*. One of the leavening influences in early Massachusetts was the tiny settlement of Pilgrims on Plymouth Bay. The Rev. John Robinson, the great Pilgrim prophet, had said to his flock while they were still in Europe: "God has yet more truth and light to break forth out of His Holy Word." This was the spirit of the open mind, the scientific approach, and all modern research. It was not the spirit of the Puritans, but it was the attitude of the Pilgrims, and the liberalism of Plymouth acted as a leaven in the colony of Massachusetts until it leavened the entire lump.

Symptomatic of this liberalizing process is the account of what took place at Harvard College. When first established, Harvard was looked upon almost exclusively as a training-school for the preparation of Puritan ministers and school-masters. It was completely under the control of the Puritan hierarchy. But there was a group of liberals in Boston who wanted the college to branch out, and wanted it to be less iron-clad in its curriculum. A long struggle ensued, but the liberals won the day, the college was wrested from clerical control, and was launched on its long career as a true college of liberal arts.

The Puritan clergy, too, did not have completely closed minds. They were receptive to many new scientific discoveries. During the early decades of Massachusetts, the Copernican astronomy was gaining acceptance among learned people. Puritan divines early became convinced that the earth revolved around the sun, and not vice versa. Comets came to be seen as natural bodies following a prescribed course thru the heavens, and not a heavenly warning, sent to be a harbinger of the divine wrath to come. In a smallpox epidemic, in 1721, it was Cotton Mather who urged Boston physicians to try inoculation against the dread disease. Only one doctor had the courage to try this new approach. It appears that the minds of the medical fraternity were as closed to new ideas as were those of the clergy. But there was a ferment at work: men refused to have their thinking circumscribed, and new ideas gained ground even in the sterile soil of Puritanism.

These are the wells which our fathers dug, and from which they drank. Three hundred years have passed by, and we come to an exploration of the old paths and byways. What of the old wells? Certain of these emphases of colonial days have come to be neglected or ignored, and our generation are the losers. We need in this day a renewed emphasis on the reality of God. It is said repeatedly, and truthfully, that we are living in a godless age. Since coming to Topsfield fifteen months ago, I have had people say to me, "I am an atheist", or "There are a lot of atheists around here", or "My husband and I only appreciate the church for its aesthetic value." Now, the situation in Topsfield is no worse than it is anywhere else. In fact, the Church is in rather a strong position in Topsfield. It is just that people in Topsfield are more honest. There are just as many atheists, and just as many pseudo-religious aesthetes, in other communities as in Topsfield, but they don't like to admit it. Yet these things are symptomatic: we are living in a godless age. We need to dig again the well our fathers dug—the well from which sprang a keen realization that this is God's creation, and we are God's creatures, and that we are accountable to him.

We mentioned the Puritans' obsession with the idea of a devil, and said that such an idea had its value. It does recognize the fact of evil in the world. In the early years of the Twentieth Century, there was a tendency to be over-optimistic. We were told that this was the best of all possible worlds, that human nature was getting better and better, and that everything would come out in the wash. Well, we have been washed. We have been dragged thru two world wars and a world-wide depression, and now we see the sorry spectacle of a world which is divided into two armed camps, with everyone fearful of the outcome. We have witnessed pogroms, concentration camps, obliteration bombings, and the crowning iniquity of human inventiveness—the atomic bomb. There may not be a personal devil—but there is something devilish in persons. (Here the fire siren sounded.) What we have come to realize is this: that mankind is a strange compound of good and evil, half-god and half-beast. That liberalizing tendency in New England, which was already at work three hundred years ago, produced a situation in which people saw only the divine in man, and tended to overlook or condone the beastly. We need to dig again the well our fathers dug, and to realize that mankind is not only capable of great good, but also is capable of great evil.



Topsfield Congregational Church



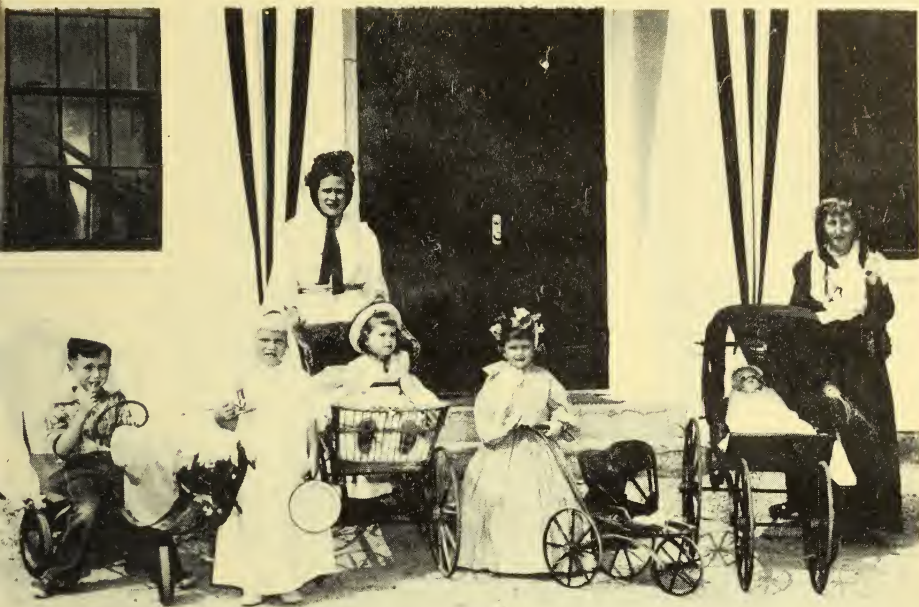


Curtis Campbell, Paul R. Kimbell and James Duncan Phillips



Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.





Children's Costume Parade Winners



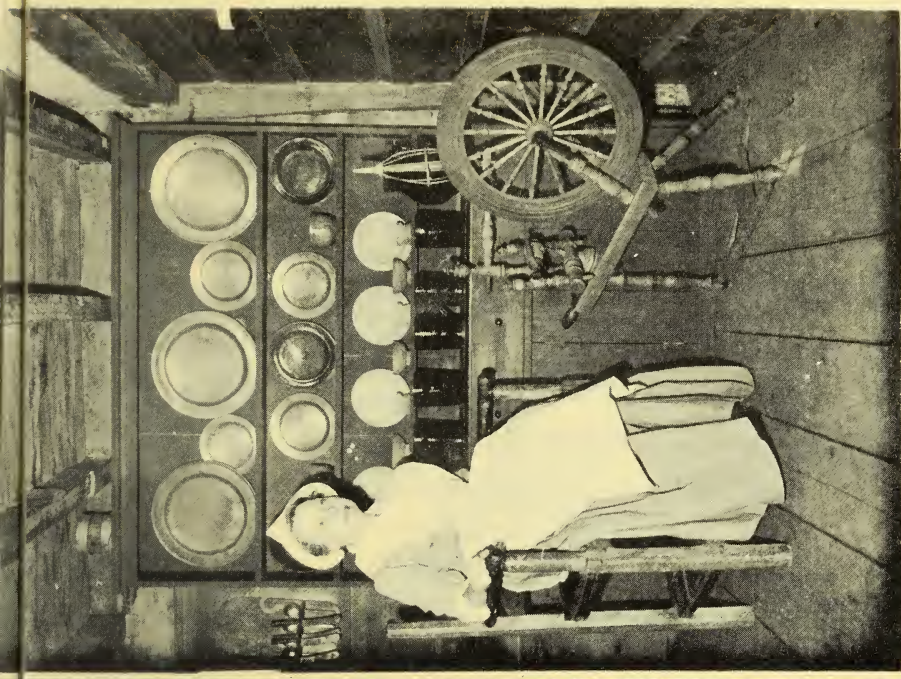
Square Dance in Town Hall







Mrs Elmer Foye at Door of parson Capen House



Miss Olive Dingle in parson Capen House





Mrs. Joseph Leonard taking Bread from Brick Oven  
at the Home of her Parents, the Sargent Wellmans



Shoemaking by Hand at the Wellman Home



Mrs. C. Lawrence Bond Spinning at the Abbott House



Mrs. Benjamin English and Mrs. Walter James at the English House





We need to emphasize once more the value of the Bible. The Bible is still the world's best-seller, but to millions of Americans it is as strange and unknown a country as the desert thru which the Children of Israel wandered. The Bible is still the great source-book about God, the only repository of the Christian Gospel, and the book which stands us in best stead thru all of life's varied experiences.

These are days when we need to re-emphasize the value of the individual. Whether we like it or not, we are living in an age of collectivism. Thousands of workers labor day after day within the walls of one factory; millions of people live within one metropolitan area. Clever propagandists who have learned how to play upon the mass mind have been highly successful in selling everything from mouth-washes to dictators. The danger is that the individual will be swallowed up in the mass. We need to realize that every individual human being is a child of God, and that, in the eyes of God, every individual is of supreme worth.

Our times call for a continued emphasis on the importance of the open mind. It is good for one's soul, at least once every three months, for a person to say to himself: "*I could be wrong; it's just barely possible that the other fellow might be right.*" Without such an attitude, Rabbi Saul would never have become the Apostle Paul, Martin Luther would never have become a Reformer, John Robinson would not have been a Pilgrim. During the last twenty years, I have noticed a hardening of American minds, a growing spirit of intolerance, an unwillingness to entertain new ideas. America is no longer a haven for religious and political refugees, as it was for two hundred and fifty years. It has been this characteristic of the open mind, an eagerness to welcome people with new ideas, and to encourage independent thinking on the part of our own people, that has stimulated our growth and development in both technological and cultural ways. If we lose this, then we become a decadent and decaying society.

These are the wells our fathers dug. These are the beliefs and emphases which produced sturdy characters, alert minds, and ultimately a free society. These are the things which we today, the spiritual descendants of the Puritans and Pilgrims, must cherish, enhance, and appropriate to ourselves, if we would carry forward the civilization which our forebears have bequeathed to us.

## LETTER FROM TOPPESFIELD, ENGLAND

Toppesfield Hall, Great Yeldham, Essex  
6th June, 1950

The people of Toppesfield, Essex, England, send Greetings and Congratulations to the people of Topsfield, Massachusetts, on the occasion of their tercentenary celebrations.

We shall be thinking of you during your week of special events: August 13th to 19th.

Once again we would like to thank you and say how much we have appreciated your kindness to us over the past years.

F. St. G. Unwin, Chairman  
Parish Council

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## RESOLUTIONS ON TOPSFIELD TERCENTENNIAL

State House, Boston, June 2—Resolutions congratulating the town of Topsfield on the 300th anniversary of its incorporation have been adopted by the Senate. The House of Representatives previously adopted the resolutions.

The resolutions read: "Whereas, In the year 1648 the village at the Newe Medowes at Ipswich was set apart and became known as Toppesfield, and on Oct. 18th in the year 1650 was established as a town with the name Topsfield; and

"Whereas, The people of this beautiful and picturesque town, with its rolling hills and sweeping valleys, rich in history and tradition, have long contributed to the greatness of this commonwealth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the General court extends to the town of Topsfield its congratulations upon the 300th anniversary of its incorporation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the secretary of state to the town clerk of the town of Topsfield to be filed with the records in the archives of the town."



**HISTORICAL AND LITERARY EXERCISES, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST THIRTEENTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.** ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞



## PROGRAM

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### ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Curtis Campbell, *Chairman*, Tercentenary Committee

### CHRYSAOR

*Calderwood*

### BATTLE OF JERICO

(arr) *Bartholomew*

Beverly Men's Singing Club

GREETINGS from Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

### AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

Hymn

With Congregation

### HISTORICAL ADDRESS

Three Centuries of Topsfield's History

James Duncan Phillips

### LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

*Buck*

### BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

*Steffe* (arr) *Waring*

Beverly Men's Singing Club

## ADDRESS OF WELCOME

BY CURTIS CAMPBELL

CHAIRMAN OF THE TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

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*My Fellow Townspeople, and Friends of Topsfield:*

We enter upon these exercises after long preparation, but yet with one minor deficiency. We do not have Parson Capen's pulpit actually before us.

After the wide publicity this matter has received through newspapers and by radio, I may not need to tell you that Mr. Nehemiah Cleveland, in his anniversary address in Topsfield in 1850, charged that a certain precious memorial—very apparently the pulpit—standing before him at the time, be used again at the observances in 1950. The companion piece to this invaluable relic—which he also charged that we use—is in fact here: Parson Capen's chair, from which he so often rose to preach during his 41 years of ministry beginning in 1684. But the pulpit has not been found.

I recommend that the search for it go on unceasingly. If the precious memorial be found, I recommend that it be used in all succeeding observances of the anniversary of this town. So long as it may be missing, I recommend that the deficiency be overcome in the way I am about to adopt. I call upon you here present to be as cooperative as the great audiences of the London theaters in the seventeenth century when Topsfield's first settlers ventured up the Agawam River. Please view this object before me as if it were in fact Parson Capen's pulpit. If you will do so with all the strength of your imagination, you may capture at least a large part of the great spiritual uplift which Mr. Nehemiah Cleveland so earnestly intended for our gathering today. With deep gratitude to him, may we proceed with our exercises.

First we want all of you who are our visitors today to feel at home with us. Your origins are many. Your affiliations

to Topsfield are of great variety. But today and for this coming week we look upon you all as returning sons and daughters. We feel that we have here in this renowned and restful old New England village green something which you all can recognize as home. We welcome you here wholeheartedly and with the most generous feelings of affection and good will.

I should like to single out from among you, without any thought of special favor, but as a stirring example of home-coming, a gentleman prominent in the life of Topsfield in 1900. He was chief marshall of the parade in that anniversary year. He has been away from here almost the full time since then, and has come home for this week—all the way from Seattle, Washington. He is Paul R. Kimball, and we are delighted to have him with us.

There could be no more appropriate place in Topsfield to extend our hand in welcome. Here we are close to the old Town Hall, the two old churches, the school house, the library, the training field, the site of the old academy. It is in, on, or near these places that Topsfield people have met most frequently, exchanged greetings, drawn strength from each other's good will and good wishes, faced difficulties together, worked out solutions.

We also are met here today on this hallowed ground. Let us draw strength from each other's good will and good wishes. Let us face our difficulties together—as we listen to a new version of the great story of the struggles which took place here down through the long years of Topsfield's history. Perhaps, from this story retold, we shall be able to carry away today a feeling that our difficulties—local, national, and international, are after all not so overwhelming, when held up to the light of the obstacles which faced the sturdy pioneers of this town.

Welcome to these exercises. Welcome to the full observance of the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of this town. Welcome to Topsfield.

*Chairman*:—On August 16, 1900 on a spot very close to this, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Sr. spoke at the observance of the 250th anniversary of the town of Topsfield. And now, fifty years later almost to the day, the grandson of that great statesman—a grandson who also is a great statesman and a United States Senator will speak to us. We have set in motion what I hope may be a tradition in the Lodge family. I hope the year 2000 may see the tradition kept alive.

Our distinguished speaker has been in Topsfield before. I remember his graciously appearing as a speaker before the Topsfield Mens' Club. That was over ten years ago and I would remind you as he stands before you that he was first elected to the United States Senate in 1936—fourteen years ago.

He is a statesman of international reputation and I must confess that when I earlier stated that we in Topsfield look upon all our visitors today as returning sons and daughters, it was a pretty ambitious adoption in the case of the Senator. I hope, nevertheless, that he will feel at home with us. We await with eagerness his news, his views and his greetings.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I present Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

## ADDRESS OF SENATOR HENRY CABOT LODGE, JR.

It is a pleasure, as well as an honor, to come to this 300th anniversary of the founding of this beautiful old town of Topsfield. I always think of Topsfield as typifying all that is best in our Massachusetts towns. Its physical appearance is one of remarkable beauty and the spirit of the town reflects the American ideals of respect for human dignity, which is expressed in our Declaration of Independence, and of love of justice which, according to the United States Constitution, it is one of the prime functions of government to establish.

It is from towns like Topsfield that adventurous Americans went West and settled the United States, carrying these precious traditions out to the Pacific Coast and later to the Hawaiian Islands. We who have stayed in Massachusetts have also sought to carry on these ideals and to keep Massachusetts a place where human dignity is respected and where people could advance in life and live peacefully together without prejudice because of race, creed, or color.

In the last three hundred years there have been many stirring events which shook the world—and the town of Topsfield—to its foundations. The young men of this town went to the war of the American Revolution which gave birth to our country and thus made them the fathers of the most powerful and, insofar as human values are concerned, the greatest nation which the world has ever seen. In the 1860's the young men of this town went off to the Civil War which, all things considered, was probably the greatest hour of peril for our country and which marked the presence on the world stage of one of the greatest human beings ever to draw the breath of life—Abraham Lincoln. Since that time we have had the Spanish War and two major world convulsions which we call World War I and World War II.

But it is not to be doubted that we have ever faced anything more cataclysmic and more full of danger than the threat which we face in brutal and inhuman attempt of Soviet-directed communism to establish godless and materialistic dictatorship over the world.

When we inquire as to why we face this danger, we, of course, first, make the answer that we face it because the rulers of the Kremlin wish to establish such a dictatorship. But this in itself would not make the threat a dangerous one.



There are many evil people in the world who are not so dangerous. What makes the danger so real is the fact that in 1945 American leadership utterly failed to recognize the true aims and methods of the rulers of Soviet Russia. This is the basic tragedy of our time. To this failure can be traced the utter disintegration of our armed forces in 1945, which would not have occurred if the need for retaining adequate forces had been explained to the American people. Thus we lost the initiative and the power for peace which we had won by force of arms. The fact that the true nature of Soviet intentions became apparent to some Americans in 1947 and was reflected in such valuable ventures as the Marshall Plan, Greek and Turkish aid and the North Atlantic Pact, does not alter the fact that the basic errors of 1945 have not yet been retrieved and that in the Far East a virtual green light was given to the spread of communism.

So it is that we see some of the following tragic results which are due to the stupidity of our leadership in 1945:

1. The partition of Germany whereby the western border of the Russian zone was drawn apparently so as to include most of the best military locations in western Germany—a sinister military gerrymander if ever there was one.

2. The arrangement whereby Berlin became an island completely surrounded by Russian territory without any adequate assurance of the right of entrance and of exit.

3. The crass abuse of the veto power by the Soviet Union in the United Nations has paralyzed that body and it will not regain its true stature until the use of the veto power on everything except the actual use of force has been abolished.

4. The fact that we refused to take inexpensive measures in time such as helping to build adequate friendly military forces abroad, which would have made it unnecessary for us to bear alone, as we now do in Korea, the full weight of combat in battles where the Soviets do not engage a single Russian soldier. This is a heads-I-win, tails-you-lose system which must stop.

5. It has resulted in the lack of any real international inspection of atomic facilities and, of course, without such inspection there can be no feeling of comfort or certainty about peace.

6. It all adds up to the loss of freedom in Europe for the peoples of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, and Rumania; and, in Asia, the loss of outer Mongolia, North Korea and, recently, China, all of which have gone

behind the Iron Curtain. This means more than 12 million square miles and 750 million people which are now controlled by the Soviets and their satellites, equalling about one-third of the total area and population of the world.

If we are to correct this extremely dangerous situation we must build strength for victory. Of course, this means economic strength and moral strength, but it also means military strength—and that is where we are weak. Although the President did react courageously to the challenge in Korea, his announced objective of liberating Korea and building enough strength to resist aggression, while necessary, does not go far enough. If our young men are to leave their homes and their work, it must be for a nobler objective than simply to wait to get punched on the nose by some new aggression.

If we are ever to sleep easy in our beds at night, we must regain the initiative that we threw away in 1945 and then organize lasting peace in a free world. This means that the abuse of the veto power must cease and that international inspection of atomic power will be a reality. Then the world will have some of the fruits of the victory which we won in 1945. Our aims should be thought out now and not wait until after the war is over and we fumble the ball because we are not ready for victory.

In building this strength, the human and spiritual values which the town of Topsfield symbolizes are more utterly necessary than ever. The foundation of respect for human dignity, which was enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, and of dedication to the establishment of justice, which is set forth in the United States Constitution, is the foundation stone on which this town was built and on which it has lasted and prospered. It is on this foundation that the United States and the rest of the free world which looks to it for leadership, can advance hopefully into the threatening future. These things of the spirit have enabled us to overcome past dangers. With God's help they will enable us to go forward unafraid.



*Chairman:*—Our historical address today is to be given by a man whose grandfather delivered the historical address at the bicentennial observances in Ipswich, our mother town. His father, an attorney general of Massachusetts, gave the historical address in Ipswich at the 250th anniversary celebration of that town.

Not only is our speaker qualified by family tradition, he also is qualified by great scholarship and great reputation. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College, and a member of its Phi Beta Kappa society. He is President of the Board of Trustees of Governor Dummer Academy. He has contributed scores of historical articles to a large number of publications. He is nationally famous as an author of a series of books on the history of Salem. For almost fifty years he was a principal officer and director of the great publishing house of Houghton, Mifflin & Company.

There are many more things I have not mentioned in his great record,—but such data alone would not properly prepare you for the address he is going to deliver. He has in addition to a great scholarship a great force as a speaker. Topsfield people who have known him during his nearly forty years of residence here are well aware of his ability. I can safely promise that you are about to hear a most vigorous and inspiring historical address.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I present Mr. James Duncan Phillips.

## THREE CENTURIES OF TOPSFIELD HISTORY

BY JAMES DUNCAN PHILLIPS

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For the last two hundred years or so, the old New England towns have had the habit of choosing someone to look back on their history and point out whence they have come and how they have attained their prosperity and present happiness. I am aware that in the present whirlwind of opinions there is little sympathy with looking at the past but if some of these persons who consider themselves progressive and are so desirous to rush somewhere, anywhere, will do so, they are likely to find that all their progressive ideas were tried out three or four hundred years ago and about every fifty years since and each time presently rejected as foolish. They would save a great deal of energy and money if they studied history.

Most persons do not know for instance, that the Mayflower people established a pure communistic state at Plymouth which failed in a few years, as they all do. Gov. Bradford wisely remarks:—

“The experience that was had in this common course and condition, tried sundrie years and that among so godly and sober men, may well evince the vanitie of that conceit of Plato’s and other ancients, applauded by some of later times; that the taking away of propertie and the bringing in of communitie into a comone wealth would make them happy and flourishing as if they were wiser than God . . . ” For “this communistic was found to breed much confusion and discontent and retard much imployment that would have been to their benefit and comforte.”

The lessons of history are not usually as obvious as this but after all the value of looking back over our peoples’ history is that we can benefit by their experience for future conduct and may avoid some of the pitfalls of the past. As Plato also remarked that “those who do not learn by experience are fools” so let us have a swift glance at the history of Topsfield.

Unlike the early shore towns such as Salem, Ipswich, Rowley and Newbury in which groups of settlers received their land direct from the Colony, moved thither, divided up their grant and founded a church and a town, the land

in Topsfield was early granted to some distinguished citizens as a partial payment for their very great contributions toward the founding or financing of the colony. Most of these men were of the town of Ipswich, founded by John Winthrop, the younger, but at least one was from Salem. Governor Endecott had an irregular strip of land along the boundary between what is now Topsfield and Boxford and perhaps southward toward Salem. Governor Bradstreet had 500 acres nearer the middle of the town, the Winthrop land was in Linebrook while Samuel Symonds and Rev. Ezekiel Rogers had grants in the easterly part of the town. The center of what is now the village was granted to two Ipswich merchants, John Whittingham and William Paine. Most of these and other grants were made before 1640 and few of these men had any intention of settling here. In fact the names of Bradstreet and Dorman are the only ones familiar to Topsfield, associated with these first grantees but many of our well-known families like the Perkinses, Goulds, Townes, Averills, Kneelands, Redingtons, Hobbses and others early purchased from them.

Many Salem and Salem Village men soon received grants of land extending up to the River in some places and these grants sometimes overlapped Ipswich grants. The contentious Putnam family had a large grant that ran up to the river. Prominent men in Salem such as Henry Bartholomew, John Ruck, and Townsend Bishop had other grants. Farmer John Porter also bought large strips of land extending into Topsfield territory. These lands were mostly sold to Salem men but with the exception of William Nichols and William Hobbs these men had little to do with the new Topsfield Village or the Church. The disputes over these south side land grants are the roots of the long conflict with Salem over the town boundary just as Zaccheus Gould's reserved decision over whether he would join Boxford or Topsfield resulted in a boundary dispute which lasted into this century. The Salem dispute was very heated and resulted in the bitter feeling which was one of the underlying causes of the witchcraft.

The sturdy men from Ipswich who arrived about 1640 and bought up the land, wanted to have a village of their own and in 1642 permission was granted by the General Court but they were still the village of New Meadows in the town of Ipswich and liable for all the parish and town rates there. In 1645 the villagers were authorized to gather a church in spite of the violent objection of Ipswich which could see a large amount of their original taxable property about to be abstrac-

ted from their jurisdiction. The court took a larger view and simply replied that the village was for the benefit of those who lived in it and, who might have held the original grants, did not matter.

The gathering of the church was not as speedy as in most towns. Mr. William Knight dispensed religion hereabouts as early as 1640 and a meeting place may have been built on Howlett St. A little later came Rev. William Perkins from Gloucester who seems to have been a rather contentious soul and one of his Gloucester parish fired a parting shot at him as he left that he was "more fit to be a lady's maid than a teacher". He was a man of vigor, however, and stirred up the people to build a meeting house and gather a church. This meeting house was built in the old part of the Pine Grove Cemetery but before the church was formally gathered, Mr. Perkins had had a first class row with Zaccheus Gould which nearly disrupted it, so the Rev. Thomas Gilbert of Charlestown was invited to come and was ordained in 1663.

The organization of the town proceeded more simply. On November 27, 1648 the General Court changed the name of *New Meadows* to Topsfield and voted to make it a town on Oct. 16, 1650. The vote gave the people "power within themselves to order all civil affairs as other towns have". That simple vote dates the establishment of our town, and is the event we celebrate this year. The first town clerk was William Howard and the second John Redington. The first book of records was burned when Mr. Redington's house was burned and the second has disappeared but from the time Francis Peabody became Town clerk in 1676 our records are complete and perfect.

The earliest record of residents of Topsfield is the list of thirty persons entitled to share in the common lands. It is interesting to note that the names of Bradstreet, Towne, Perkins, Andrews, Gould, Peabody, Smith, Wildes and Cummings are still well known here. There are Howes, Endecotts and Nicholse still in the immediate vicinity but I know no families by the name of Dorman, Redington, Simpkins, Uselton, Estey, Euens, Howlett or Standley though undoubtedly represented through the distaff side. Of the other more usual names it is hard to judge.

Now what sort of a land was it that these early settlers pushed up into from the sea coast in those early years?

Apparently there was never an Indian village in Topsfield so we may assume that except for the meadows most of it was

covered with dense forest. Oak, maple, hickory and beech covered the higher ridges while the lovely white pine and the coarser pitch pines spread over the lower lands and the sand plains. Only in the meadows was there any opening in the forest. There are plenty of men here who know what a terrific job it is to clear just the trees, smaller stumps and rocks from land if you are content to plant between the boulders and big stumps. When one thinks how many acres of this sort of tillage land it takes to raise hay enough for a few cows and a yoke of oxen, he realizes what a blessing the great meadows were. Meadow hay may not be the finest of feed but it will keep steers, horses and sheep alive through the winter and that was an enormous gain. There were not men enough in New England to clear land very rapidly and the men who labored in Topsfield had a colossal task. There were no roads, probably no paths, for the epidemic which had carried off 90% of the Massachusetts Indians twenty years before, did not leave enough to keep even their trails open. The first and easiest line of communication with Ipswich was by canoe on the river, then by rough paths over which horses and cattle could be brought up. Their first trail came along the river till it began to encounter the meadows and then turned away following the general line of Perkins St. and then Howlett St. then cut across north of the present common and ran west to serve the people on the Endecott grant around Fish Brook. A branch of this trail turned south toward the river to serve the farms being built near the meadows and then continued westerly across the agricultural farm and up the River Road. This was very limited transportation and it was over a hundred years before these trails got beyond use by two-wheeled ox-carts. People went on horseback or walked during the first half of our three hundred years. These were the conditions under which our ancestors laid the foundations of America.

The first great rush of immigration to Massachusetts brought some ten thousand people here before 1640. For the next eighty years, few if any came. The first generation of Indians after the great epidemic was barely coming to maturity when Topsfield was settled and the whites outnumbered the Indians along the coast but as the white people pushed westward and over into the Connecticut valley they reached areas where they were greatly outnumbered by the Indians. The Plymouth Colony never grew much and down there and in Rhode Island, the Indians at least equalled the whites. There was no marked frontier. The Indian villages



were intermingled with the white settlements and the danger increased in areas where the Indian population was most numerous. Nevertheless this situation continued with relative peace for another generation. Finally in June 1675, the war broke out in the Plymouth Colony and rapidly spread through Massachusetts. King Philip of the Wampanoags rallied the Indians and no one knew whether a tribe in some Valley a few miles away would suddenly fall on their village or not. Topsfield built a stone wall five feet high around its meeting house then in the Pine Grove Cemetery at one end of the village and another fort or garrison house on what is now the eastern end of the Fair Grounds. At least one man Thomas Towne was drafted for the Company called the "Flower of Essex" which was made up of men from Wenham, Beverly and Danvers. This company was sent to the assistance of Deerfield and was caught in an ambush south of the town. Very few escaped this disaster at Bloody Brook. The war was waged with stubborn ferocity for two years from Long Island Sound to Casco Bay till twelve hundred houses and barns had been burned and thirteen settlements completely wiped out.

Topsfield came close to having a massacre of its own at the Curtis place (recently the Baxter Pike Farm) on Rowley Bridge Road. A well authenticated legend says that the Indian who was watching to give the signal for the attack thought he was discovered by a girl who came out to get the washing and the attack was abandoned.

There were steady drafts of men to serve in the forces and a number of them were killed before King Philip was finally slain and the war petered out.

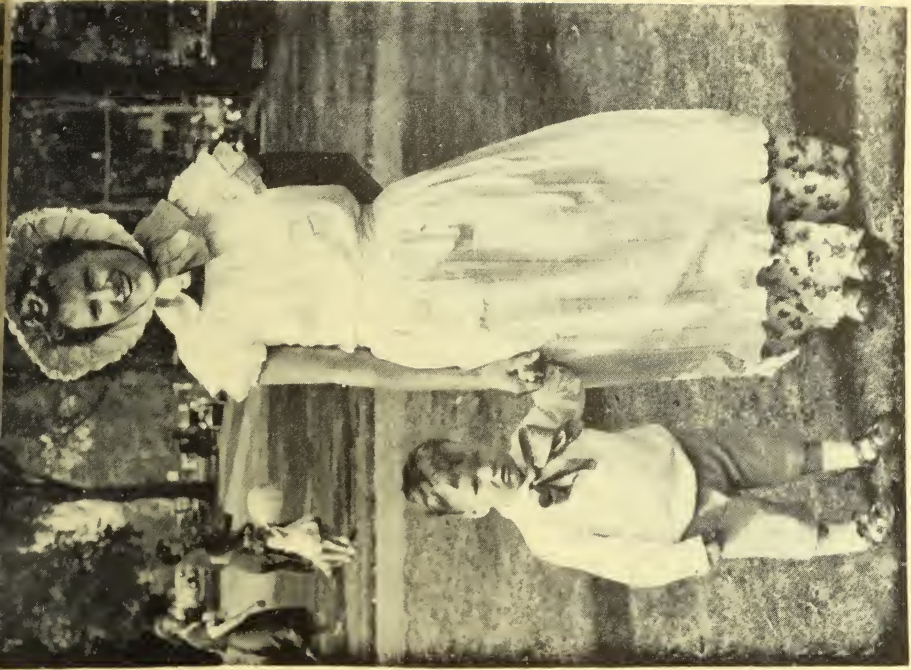
Right on the heels of the war came the accession of King James II with the annulling of the old colonial charter and the arrival of Andros who was to govern all the New England colonies arbitrarily. What struck the deepest was that the annulling of the charter was supposed to cancel all land titles. This raised the question whether the farmers in Topsfield really owned their farms or whether Andros could not grant them to somebody else.

Against this tyrannical government some brave spirits stood out and not least Lieut. John Gould of Topsfield. In the charge against him, it was stated that he "advisedly did speak and utter these malicious treasonable and sedition speeches following, viz. If the Country was of his mind they would keep Salem Court with the former magistrates and if the country would go the rounds, he would make the first and





Mrs. Robert Hardy and Mrs. Richard Ingram



Mrs. Joseph Leonard and Son, Andy



The French-Andrews-Carothers H.



The Gould-Fuller-Abbott House





The Peabody-Wellman House



The Gould-Huntington-English House





Blacksmith John R. Gould at his Shop

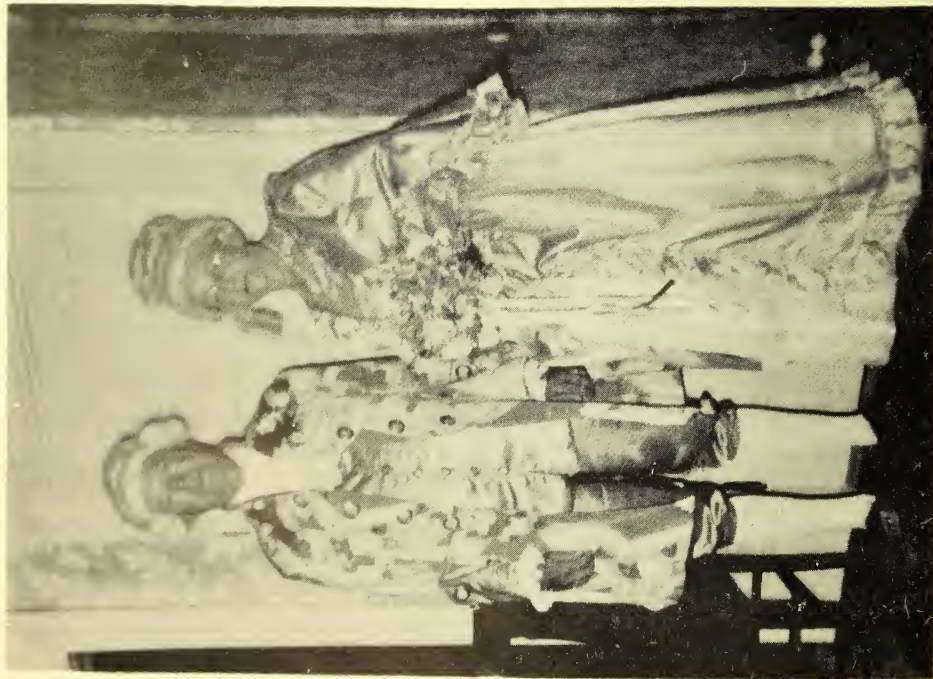


Tercentenary Ball Committee



Prize Winners at the Ball





Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Pethybridge, Leaders of the Grand March      Colonel and Mrs. George L. Goodrich at the Ball





Mr. and Mrs. C. Lawrence Bond at the Ball



Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Woodbury at the Ball



Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hurley at the Ball



Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Gangi at the Ball



he would go and keep Salem Court and he would have his company down to do it." Later he stated "That he was under another government and had sworn to another Government and did not know this one." Unfortunately the country was not yet ready to go the rounds as he put it, some of his neighbors told tales on him and he was committed to jail in Boston. His wife and eight children were starving in Topsfield and John had to recant. The church did not, however, approve of the course of John How who had testified against Gould and at a meeting at Parson Capen's house two years later, How had to say he was sorry but that was after the tide had turned.

It is bold spirits like Gould who have made good the liberties of the English people through all the centuries. In less than four years the country as Gould put it, did "go the rounds" and Andros and his gang occupied the jail. It was the militia companies of Boston, in no wise different from Gould's in Topsfield, only nearer, who put him there.

No town in Massachusetts was more intimately connected with the witchcraft delusion than Topsfield except Salem Village itself (now called Danvers Highlands.) I have always felt that the chief cause of the fatal results of the so called "witchcraft" was the bitter quarrel of the Putnams of Salem Village with the Towne family of Topsfield over the land south of the river. At any rate the Putnam family were the chief accusers and at least two Towne women of estimable character died on the gallows. It is unlikely that at the time the episode created as much excitement beyond the local area as the Costello trial in Salem a few years ago or the recent Sander trial in Nashua. The ghoulish delight with which the papers print and the people gloat over the real or imaginary details of crime trials is creditable neither to writers nor readers. In the same way the witchcraft episode has been puffed up into importance. It lasted less than a year and a few unfortunate persons lost their lives but that is nowise comparable to the thousands who were burned, hanged, and drowned for witchcraft in the various Catholic and Protestant countries of Europe in the same century where the delusion became a national epidemic. The Puritans were the great liberals of their time.

Rev. Joseph Capen who seems to have been a gentle and lovable man took no part in the witchcraft trials except to testify to the good character of some of his parishioners who were indited.

After the dismissal of Mr. Hobart in 1680, the people had

heard of a young Dorchester man and sent Thomas Perkins, Jr. and Joseph Bixby, Jr. to "pilot Mr. Capen to Topsfield to Lt. Peabody's house". He was interviewed and stayed two months but he wanted to go home and talk with his friends. The people did not want to lose him however so they sent Sergt. Redington, Jacob Towne, Sr. and John How "to bring him again if they can with his friends' consent to contene with us in the ministri", and continue he did till his death in 1725. I am not perfectly sure the word "contene" should be read "continue" or perhaps "contend". There was also a good deal of that in the Topsfield ministry. Mr. Capen seems to have been a man of good ability and strong commonsense and ministered to the church for over forty-three years. His grave is in the Pine Grove Cemetery and is said to be located exactly beneath where the pulpit of the church in which he first preached in Topsfield stood. During his ministry a new church was built on the green about where the present church now stands (described in Cleveland's address of 1850) but the monument of Parson Capen which probably represents him to us best today is the dignified old home which he built in 1683 and peeks out at us today from across the Green. Mr. Capen and his successor Rev. John Emerson served the church for over ninety years between them and I am not sure whether that is more to the credit of the two men or to that of the people they served but I am sure it was greatly to the benefit of both sides. These two pastorates span the period from the days of the Colonial Charter to the opening of the Revolutionary War.

This period was a time of almost continuous war for New England broken by only one or two periods of as much as ten years of peace. King William's War was soon followed by Queen Anne's War and that by a private but rather bloody Indian War of our own usually called "Gov. Dummer's War". After the longest breathing space of the century, we were plunged into the War of the Austrian succession which in New England took the form of the famous crusade against Louisburg. The English returned it to France at the peace and in about ten years we had to help capture it again when the French were finally driven out of North America in 1763. Then it fell to us to drive the English out of our part of it.

The military organization of the Colony in the seventeenth century consisted in the assumption that all men of military age belonged to the militia and were expected to get together once a year at least for a training day and election of officers.



A town, or, if there were not enough men, two adjoining towns would make up a company and then enough adjoining companies would form a regiment. These companies were seldom called out as a whole except for urgent local service in the vicinity, such as the attacks on Haverhill, Andover and Newbury, but they were steadily called on for drafts of men to fill up special companies which were organized for frontier service in Maine or in the constant fighting around Lake Champlain.

Certainly as early as 1656 Topsfield had an organized group of soldiers though probably not a full company and during the rest of the century we find Redingtons, Townes, Bixbys, Cummingses, Hoveys, Averills and Goulds all serving as captains, ensigns or sergeants. Lt. John Gould was the chief officer. Gould had more rows with the town, county and even the colony, as previously mentioned, than any other officer but we suspect he was a mighty brave and efficient officer, for the moment men realize their lives depend on their officers their votes go to men they trust, popular or not. Gould was the chief officer for over twenty years.

In 1784 Lt. Gould was ordered by Major Saltonstall of Haverhill who commanded the North Essex Regiment to inspect the arms and equipment of his men and see they were up to the legal requirements. He is also required to have all necessary equipment including a green flag with a red cross on a white field in the corner "according to ancient custom of our own English nation and ye English plantations in America". The Lieutenant obeyed his orders but it took him over ten years to get the town to pay for the flag, drums and other equipment. We note with amusement that the town kept its supply of powder and bullets in the Meeting House!

On June 1, 1685 after King Philip's War, we have a story of a grand training day held in Topsfield at which men from Andover, Rowley, Beverly and Ipswich were certainly present. It looks as if the whole North Essex Regiment were here. After the companies were dismissed they apparently all headed for Smith Tavern and got gloriously drunk. There were fights all around but the worst was when a drunken trooper from Andover tried to break up a wrestling bout which Lt. John Putnam was managing. The Lieutenant struck his horse on the nose whereupon the trooper drew a pistol and "shot him right in his face" at a range of three or four feet, blacked his face, but believe it or not, missed him.

Though this was theoretically in a time of peace, the frontiers always had to be defended against Indian attacks. By

1693 there were sixty able-bodied men in the company and twelve of them were serving with the active forces. Topsfield men were with Sir William Phipps' expedition against Canada and in many places along the frontier. Capt. Gould is reported as with Captain Appleton's Ipswich company in the Canada expedition. Dormans and Howletts, Clarkes and Townes and many others were with the fighting forces.

The war of 1745 which was pushed most vigorously by New England, was the famous crusade against the French fortress of Louisburg in Cape Breton. There were sixteen Topsfield men in the first expedition and before the campaign ended twenty-seven had gone and at least six lost their lives there. Many more served in the subsequent campaigns of the war. There was little respite before the next war began. Many Topsfield men were called out for the bitter fighting around Lake George in 1755 and 1756. It is amazing the number of men the little town furnished during the next few years and some of them were becoming professional soldiers for their names appear in expedition after expedition. Some were in the bateaux companies which got the supplies up the Hudson River. Some were also in John Stark's company of Rogers' Rangers. There are pathetic stories such as that of Jacob Towne who fell badly wounded in the assault on Ticonderoga and lay five days under some bushes before he was rescued and David Kneeland whose father learned he was desperately ill above Albany and went at once to bring him home so, as David himself says, "through the Goodness of God to him he is abel and agoing in the service again".

Through it all, it is very evident that Topsfield men went willingly to the defence of the frontiers and did their full share till the French wars ended in 1763 with English supremacy in North America.

Out of those wars grew the very questions which caused the next war; namely, whether the Colonies should be taxed to pay a part of the expense of these wars. Be it said they already had paid a substantial part by supplying both men and equipment for the endless campaigns and they were not very well satisfied with the way the British government had managed. The quarrel thus grew out of taxation and perhaps it will be well for the bureaucrats of the twentieth century to take note that when you begin to tax English speaking people in a manner they consider unfair, you can expect trouble.

Topsfield moved with the Province, step by step toward the coming Revolution. They concurred with the view of the

Boston Committee of Correspondence and appointed one of their own. They approved *The Boston Tea Party* and sent three delegates to the Essex County Convention at Ipswich which General Gage had expressly forbidden to meet. They sent Samuel Smith to the First Provincial Congress. All men from 16 to 50 were listed for a Training Band and those from 50 to 70 were put on an Alarm List. Two militia companies were organized and a quarter of them were to be Minute Men and to equip themselves with a gun, cartridge box, etc. Many Topsfield Minute Men grabbed their guns and rode to Lexington on the ever memorable 19th of April in time to join the fight and both militia companies marched to Cambridge and stayed a few days till things quieted down. Immediately after their return a company under John Baker of Topsfield but also containing men from the adjoining towns was organized and formed part of Col. Moses Little's 17th Regiment of Foot of the Continental army. This company was in the thick of the fight at Bunker Hill.

In June 1776 the town voted that "in case the Honorable, the Continental Congress, shall think fit for the safety of the United Colonies to declare them Independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, this town do solemnly engage to defend and support the measure both with their lives and fortunes to the utmost of their power."

That was no slight undertaking. Not only the demands for men for regular replacements in the Continental Army but special urgent demands to support Washington at West Point, for the Rhode Island expedition and for the most urgent service to stop Burgoyne at Saratoga, kept coming along. In addition to heavy taxes, there were demands for food, hay, blankets, clothes, shoes and supplies for the army and the people struggled on to meet the requirements as best they could while they saw the Continental Currency drop steadily in value. By the beginning of 1780 a gold or silver dollar was worth \$40 in paper currency. In another year Continental currency was nearly worthless and the government was calling for supplies instead of money for taxes. It would be wise for us who talk so glibly of inflation in 1950 to note what inflation really means if it runs away.

Our Revolution was a long and gruelling fight. If the late war which began at Pearl Harbor in December 1941 ended about now, it would have been about the same length. Eight years is a long long time to endure the privations of war, but our people were free at last. No laws or restrictions, save

those we made ourselves, bore down upon us; no rulers but those we ourselves chose, shaped our affairs. Our ships were free to visit any friendly port in the world. And this trade soon began to bring wealth untold into the country.

The end of the war brought quarrels also. The farmers quarrelled with the towns' people in Massachusetts, the states quarrelled with each other: excluded each others bank notes, tried to levy duties on merchandise carried across the state boundaries and refused to recognize each others laws. Things got so intolerable that that remarkable band of leaders which included George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Rufus King, Charles Pinckney, John Dickinson, Gouverneur Morris and Oliver Ellsworth, to mention just a few, got together and wrote the Constitution of these United States which has lasted for over 150 years and except for the bill of rights in the first ten amendments and perhaps one or two others, has not been improved by subsequent amendments.

At the end of the first half of the town's history perhaps it is well to pause a minute to consider what this small group had accomplished. After cutting down the great forest they had cleared many thousands of acres of tillage land, not with bulldozers and tractors but with crowbars, pick axes and oxen. They had built at least two hundred miles of stone walls and about fifteen miles of roads with half a dozen bridges. They had dug two thirds of the wells we have used for the last 150 years. They built dams and saw mills and grist mills and about two hundred houses and barns. All this in addition to raising almost all their food, cutting all their fuel, raising wool for clothes and flax for linen and leather for shoes. Just think what this meant in unremitting toil!

And we must not forget the women of those days. Over and above their primary job of raising a family of ten or fifteen children and training them to lead industrious God-fearing lives, just feeding the family was one of the simpler projects. They had also to make all the clothes for the whole family and that meant spinning, weaving and dyeing the cloth as well as just cutting out and sewing. Stockings, caps, mufflers and mittens must be knitted. Boots were regarded as a man's job fortunately. The food proposition was colossal in itself. Why fifty bean pots a year, and they could not get along with less, would amount for the town to a million and a half for two hundred families in a century and a half. Imagination fails if you try to compute the number of pies that were baked or doughnuts fried. I bow in admiration when I see the speed



with which our Yankee girls can prepare a delicious church supper for a hundred people but I suspect that their great grandmothers could have beaten even them. The amount of work we do now-a-days would never have built Topsfield in a century and a half nor even in a thousand years. We better think about that and be humble. There was no running water, or electric stoves, no washing machines or hot water heaters, no store to run to where you could buy anything, but just a spinning wheel and a hand loom, a well and a wood pile and a great open fire place to cook over. But no blockade could starve these people out, no strikes could cut off their fuel supply. No one could tell them what they could raise or use. They looked to God and their own strong arms for all the blessings of life. They had freedom and independence and no one could tell them how they were to live their lives. Work is a blessing and not a curse and it is the shame of the pseudo-philosophers of the twentieth century that they have taken away from men the realization that work's greatest reward, is not wages, but the joy of accomplishment, the pride in a job well-done.

Now the Revolution was over. We were a free people and the wealth that began to flow into the country was shared by the farmers of Topsfield. The seaport towns like Salem, Newburyport and Boston increased their overseas trade enormously. There was demand for all the ship-timbers that could be cut in Topsfield and for all the salt pork, salt beef and other provisions produced to victual the ships and for the export trade. Planks and barrel staves, hickory barrel hoops and even wood ashes were in great demand for cargoes. In return sugar, tea, coffee, pepper and spices as well as beautiful India textiles and even China silks became plentiful and cheap for ladies' dresses. In twenty years New England became a great maritime power. Salem alone had 138 ocean going vessels in 1800 of which over forty were East Indiamen. Wealth flowed into New England in vast amounts and soon made itself evident in great road projects. Beverly Bridge and Chelsea Bridge were built and the Newburyport, Andover and Salem Turnpikes were finished and many other roads vastly improved. Though Governor Dummer's foundation far antedated the revolution, the Academies at Andover and Exeter and the Andover Theological Seminary were the early results of this prosperity.

The wise administrations of Washington and Adams with Alexander Hamilton at the head of the Treasury and Timothy

Pickering, our own Essex County Statesman who soon succeeding the wobbly Jefferson as Secretary of State gave us sound currency and a firm foreign policy through twenty years of great prosperity.

Our principal share in the new prosperity was perhaps the Newburyport Turnpike. Begun Aug. 23, 1803, it was open for travel as far as Malden on Feb. 17, 1805, just eighteen months for twenty-nine miles of entirely new road over the biggest hills and worst swamps in Essex County at a total cost of \$283,000. The Topsfield Hotel was built by the Turnpike Company and was considered the best hotel on the eastern stage roads. It was nearby where Mr. Gleason's house now stands at the corner of High Street. That street was also built by the Turnpike Company to provide access to the Meeting House for hotel guests.

It was claimed that stages could make the run from Newburyport to Boston in four hours. This seems unlikely but it certainly meant eight horses on the heavy stages and quick changes at Saugus and Lynnfield, Topsfield and Rowley. Topsfield found itself on the trunk line of traffic with three or four stages a day each way as well as public freight wagons and private carriages, ox carts and farm wagons passing through.

Mails had been very sketchy in Topsfield before 1800. Post riders who carried letters passed through two or three times a week on their way from Salem to Haverhill but even in 1805 when Dr. Cleveland was appointed the first postmaster the mails only arrived at Salem every Thursday at 10 A.M. from Haverhill and Topsfield and departed the same day at 2 P.M. but when the turnpike was opened the Post Office was moved up to the Hotel and daily mails were instituted. There the Post Office stayed for some thirty years till the stage coach system began to wane with the introduction of rail-roads, when it was moved back into town.

Industries as we think of them today came into town slowly. The Copper mining never came to any importance but the Boxford Iron Works on Fish Brook near the Topsfield line did smelt an appreciable amount of bog iron from the ore brought in during the 17th century when iron was a very scarce and expensive commodity. Shoes were made in most farm houses or little adjacent buildings and hides were tanned at first by farmers individually, and later in one or two little village tan yards. Charles Herrick started the first real shoe factory and by 1850 there were several important factories making women's and children's shoes. At one time Topsfield shipped 200,000 pairs of shoes a year.

No farming community could get along without grist mills and saw mills, blacksmiths and carpenters and we have had them all from the earliest time. Those modern persons who decry the rugged individualists of America might take note that twenty-five years before Karl Marx was born, the Carpenters, Wheelwrights and Housewrights of Topsfield, held a meeting with Elijah Averell, as moderator and David Towne as clerk and decided the price of labor should be 3s6d a day (about 75¢) that the wood-work of a double sleigh should cost six dollars and a coffin for a grown person of ordinary boards with a lid hung with iron hinges should cost ten shillings. This was a combination of a labor union and a price fixing committee. They got out a long list of other prices but, notice, they had to be decided by majority vote in open meeting. These prices which they fixed themselves be it said, seem low but all prices were low then. Beef was probably selling at two cents a pound and milk at a cent a quart. A house on Chestnut St. in Salem as large and fine as the beautiful house across our Green was built about this time for \$8000. Wages and prices always have and always will move closely together.

Butchering is of course closely allied to farming and has always gone on but by 1850 it was an industry and 20,000 animals a year were slaughtered here.

Malt beer, the common drink in 1650, was early superseded by the old New England cider made first from little hand cider mills on every farm but soon its production became concentrated in a few efficient mills where by 1850 thousands of barrels of cider were made, not only for home use, but for shipment. This cider business developed an interest in nurseries for better fruit trees and many fine varieties of apples now almost forgotten were developed here.

One of the results of the Turnpike and its Hotel was to make Topsfield the political center of Essex County. Politics were very hot during Jefferson's administration and the first demonstration of it was by Jeffersonians, later called Democrats, who summoned a great political caucus in Topsfield in March, 1805. The *Salem Gazette* (Mar. 1, 1805) scornfully remarked "no doubt they agreed who should be our officers and how they should rule us." Another similar caucus was held in 1806 but Topsfield's firm response was to send only Federalists each year to the General Court.

The Convention which really did something was the Federalist convention of October, 1808, called to denounce Jefferson's

Embargo and his pro-French policy in general. They passed a series of resolutions embodying their feelings, and issued an appeal to the people of Essex. This meeting helped materially in securing the repeal of the wicked Embargo Act. A few months later the Jeffersonians held what the *Gazette* called a Tory Convention in Topsfield to counteract the effect of the Federalists but it did not succeed and the Embargo was repealed in 1809. It had almost ruined the commerce of our seacoast towns, however. One of the last Federalist Conventions was held here in 1819 and also the convention to endorse Jackson and Calhoun in 1828.

In 1818 the first meeting to organize the Essex Agricultural Society was called in Topsfield. Hon. Timothy Pickering was elected president and it was duly incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts. The first cattle show was held near the Hotel in October, 1820, and nearly 100 animals were exhibited. Hon. Timothy Pickering, President of the Society, then 75 years old won the contest for the best ploughing. These exhibitions continued in Topsfield for several years.

Another movement which was started in the old Topsfield Hotel in 1829 was the Essex County Lyceum organized to provide valuable lectures. All the most distinguished men in the County were behind the movement which had even more influence in its day than the Chatauqua of a latter period. The Lyceum audiences heard not only the ablest men of their communities but men from all parts of the country. Ralph Waldo Emerson was a frequent speaker and men from distant parts of the nation like Henry Clay were honored by invitations.

It was about this time that Topsfield found itself on another through line of Transportation. A stage began to run in 1819 from Salem via Topsfield to Haverhill every Friday leaving Salem at 6 A.M. and reaching Haverhill at 9.30 A.M. It left Haverhill next day at 2 P.M. and got to Salem at 5.30. By 1823 two lines were running almost daily and carrying mail and the following year a stage line was going clear through to Concord, N.H. from Salem between 7 A.M. and 6 P.M. and connecting with other lines for Plymouth, Hanover and Connecticut River points.

In the early days of the 19th century, there were almost no public high schools and it was to fill this gap between the district schools and the colleges that the private endowed academies were started. Gov. Dummer's school endowed and opened in 1763 is the oldest of them all but in Essex County



the Topsfield Academy was the fifth of those to be started between 1820 and 1835. Twenty six men, comprising all the names you would expect to find of old Topsfield families, were included among the founders. They subscribed from \$25 to \$100. A total of \$1780 was subscribed to buy land and build the school. The subscribers became incorporators and were given shares in the corporation. The school was built and started under Francis Vose and Miss Matilda Leavitt who headed a long list of successful teachers. Like all the Academies tuition was charged to help pay expenses and when the free high school movement began after the upheaval of the Civil War this Academy like many others which had done most useful work succumbed. The school property was sold to the town in 1868.

Just as a great change came over the town with the coming of the turnpike another change was due with the building of the railroads. John Wright and Asa Pingree seem to have been the prime movers in getting the charter in 1851. By 1853 the road was being built and connected at Georgetown with another little line to Newburyport and at Danvers with the line to Wakefield so trains could be run into Boston. The finances were pretty involved from the start and it might never have been finished if the Boston & Maine people had not helped out presumably to give them an entry into Eastern Railroad territory at Newburyport. Presently the Boston & Maine leased the line and by October 1854 four trains a day were running to Boston. That is about all that ever did run and they ran about as fast. The line never paid but it attained considerable importance during the Civil War when many regiments were assembled and trained on the old Boxford Camp Ground.

The impact of the Civil War on the town was pretty severe. There were under thirteen hundred persons in Topsfield but it furnished 113 men, nearly ten percent of its people of whom five were officers. Many casualties occurred and some were killed and captured. Topsfield furnished more than its full quota to the Union Armies.

The depression which followed the Civil War had a numbing effect on most of Topsfield's small industries and they faded away as industry was consolidating into great organizations. The shoe industry lasted till into the twentieth century. This change did not mean that there were any less fine workmen or mechanics in town but that they tended to go into larger industries in the surrounding cities.

The institution which has survived all changes and is as vigorous today as ever is the Congregational Church. After

the two wonderful ministeries of Mr. Capen and Mr. Emerson which covered ninety years, it took five ministries to span the next hundred years, the most notable of which were those of Rev. Ashael Huntington and Rev. Anson McLeod. Both of these men were born in Connecticut and served the church for about twenty-five years each. Mr. Huntington was a moderate Calvinist and maintained a quiet level of piety in the community. He spent his life here and died greatly beloved by all. Almost the same can be said of Mr. McLeod. After a ministry of twenty-eight years he resigned but lived in Topsfield till his death and took an active interest in town affairs.

It was during Mr. McLeod's ministry that the present church edifice was built. The old meeting house was not torn down but sold to a man who removed it to Boston Street, Salem and converted into a tannery. This moved a Salem poet to write a lengthy ode from which it is sufficient to quote a few lines

"So now deserted by its ancient friends  
Topsfield's old church to death's dark vale descends"

and again

"What tho no Golden Calf is worshipped here  
To fill the soul with darkness and with fear  
Still, if the truth with plainness must be told  
They ate the Calf and tanned his skin for Gold."

and finally

"Alas how great the difference must appear  
A Church in Topsfield and a tan yard here  
Yet this great change its present business suits  
Not saving souls of men but tanning soles of boots."

The new edifice, as it still stands, needs no description but it beautifully fits its surroundings and is a choice ornament to our Green.

In the religious turmoil of the 1820's there was a division in the old church. A Unitarian Society was started and held some services in the Academy building but it only lasted a few years. The Methodists, however, separated from the old church and organized an influential parish in 1830 which presently built its own building and maintained the organization for nearly a hundred years before it again united with the old church. Of the more recent ministers of the Congregational Church, Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Sheldon who served during the two wars are perhaps remembered with special affection.

There were not enough Roman Catholics in Topsfield till well after 1900 to organize a church, and when the present building was erected in 1921, it was erected to some extent

with the help of Protestant friends. The Catholic Church has taken a useful place in the community and serves a considerable congregation.

The longest period of peace our country has ever had was between the Civil War and World War I if we disregard the Spanish War which had almost no effect on the economy of the nation at large, though serious enough for the young men who took a gallant part and especially costly in the loss of precious lives by disease that the army did not know how to control. Brief as it was Topsfield did its bit.

While the old idea of every man serving in the militia has passed away and there has been no organized militia company in Topsfield since the passing of the Warren Blues in 1845, there has been more military service already in the twentieth century than in the nineteenth. A Public Safety Committee was organized at a meeting held March 31, 1917 and almost immediately afterwards a company for the State Guard, one-third to be supplied from Boxford and two-thirds from Topsfield, was raised and maintained for four years. These men served from the beginning of the war till a year and a half after it ended and their most serious tour of duty was as the Machine Gun Co. of the 15th Infantry during the Boston Police Strike. Constant drafts of men for the fighting forces made it hard to keep up a full company but the numbers were maintained at about ninety.

The wording of the draft law of 1917 which called for percentages of the total population bore down with peculiar severity on a town where there was so large a proportion of aged people and practically all men up to forty-five were called up and sixty were actually in the service. Robert Lake, a volunteer in the 104th Infantry was killed in France.

The ladies sewed and knitted and conserved provisions in the canning club and the whole community suffered the strain that seems to be inseparable from war.

The second world war is too vividly in the minds of us all to require any review here. Even the youngest present can remember it. With thankful hearts we can realize that our fighting men by land and sea and air saved our women and children from the death and destruction that rained upon the people of Europe and that the beauty of our cities and our country side was not marred and devastated. The restrictions which war imposed were fading away and we hoped that we were returning to the freedom and independence of a earlier and happier day when this Korean disaster struck.

A great change has come over Topsfield in the last fifty

years. Our village green has been spread out and beautified. The buildings around it have been greatly improved. It is faced by a fine school and public library and the Historical Society has preserved the unique 17th century Capen House to peek out from its knoll upon the changes time has wrought.

Topsfield is a homey place and rich and poor, good and bad, fundamentally we all like each other. We fight and say harsh things in Town Meeting and separate as if nobody was ever going to speak to any one else again. Then a few days later when our bitterest antagonist gets into trouble we turn to and help him out. It is not at all a bad thing for people to speak the plain truth to each other, if they do not cherish a hate, and can kiss and make up afterwards as the children do. It clears the air.

Looking back over three hundred years of successful prosperous Topsfield life, one can not but ask who has the right to demand that we change all this. We know that long hours of toil brought their reward in the ability to overcome obstacles, joy from the mere pride of accomplishment, and ample material comforts. Who knows what hours of idleness and pleasure seeking will bring.

We know that thrift and frugality brought security in old age. Who knows what waste and carelessness and a hopeful dependence on some governmental agency may lead to?

We know that a faith that taught self-reliance and need for every man to rely on himself alone, produced strong, independent men and women. Who knows what this doctrine that in all emergencies, people must run to the Government for help will produce in the future? Let us shun such a character-rotting philosophy! Let us cling to those characteristics which have built up America. Let us cling to honesty, thrift, hard work and individual initiative, and not go pursuing the pipe dreams of an impossible Utopia.

The people of this town and county have been fighting for freedom and individual liberty ever since the Puritans landed in Massachusetts. That is what we came to America for, and for three centuries we have clung tenaciously to the right to manage our own affairs. Individual liberty and local self-government have been the cornerstones of American prosperity and in all the confusion of the present day, let us never lose sight of them. However deceitfully delicious a mess of pottage may be brewed for us by so called economic planners, let us never sell out our American heritage, let us never fail to hold firmly to the fundamental liberties of America.



## COMMUNITY CLUB FAIR

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An ideal summer day and the Tercentenary celebration resulted in a record breaking attendance at the Topsfield-Boxford Community Club fair on Wednesday.<sup>1</sup>

"A backward glance at the town of Topsfield", a costume parade, with children and adults participating, was the opening event. Music for marching was furnished by the children's rhythm band, directed by Mrs. Alice Warren and led by Mrs. C. Lawrence Bond, drummer. Jimmy Swindell enacted the part of Town Crier.

Tables of food, flowers, vegetables, handicrafts, books, costume jewelry and the thrift table as well as grabs, balloons, ice-cream, pony and jeep rides and a peep show. Mrs. Lillian Hayward's puppets performed between 3 and 4 o'clock and at 4 o'clock an auction was held at the Thrift table with Joe Perkins, Jr., acting as auctioneer.

The prizes for those taking part in the costume parade were awarded as follows:—Family group, three Puritans and a stray Indian, Mrs. William Ballard, "Cap", Virginia and Ann Ballard; a three-year-old dainty miss with a hoop skirt, old-fashioned carriage and a China doll, Helen Tierney; a four-year-old miss on her way to bed in the days of candles, Jean Holloway; Old-fashioned mother, pushing an ancient baby carriage containing an old-fashioned baby, Marjorie Connors and Robin Holloway; covered wagon float, Jonathan Bond; early American boy, with long curls, Philip Rockwell; lady's prize, Mrs. Leslie S. Ray, in an old-fashioned gown and bonnet, pushing a baby carriage of early origin containing a very old doll dressed in baby clothes of olden times. The prizes were donated through the courtesy of Daniel Low & Co. of Salem; and each child in the parade was given a lollipop by Jack and Jane Johnson of Boxford.

Immediately following the fair, an old-fashioned baked bean supper was served in the tent by the ladies of St. Rose parish.

A Topsfield "tunket" was held in Town Hall in the evening and the proceeds donated to the Topsfield-Boxford Community Club. Joe Perkins was the caller and the Boxford country orchestra played for dancing.

<sup>1</sup>The account of the following events was taken in part from the Salem News.

## OPEN HOUSE DAY

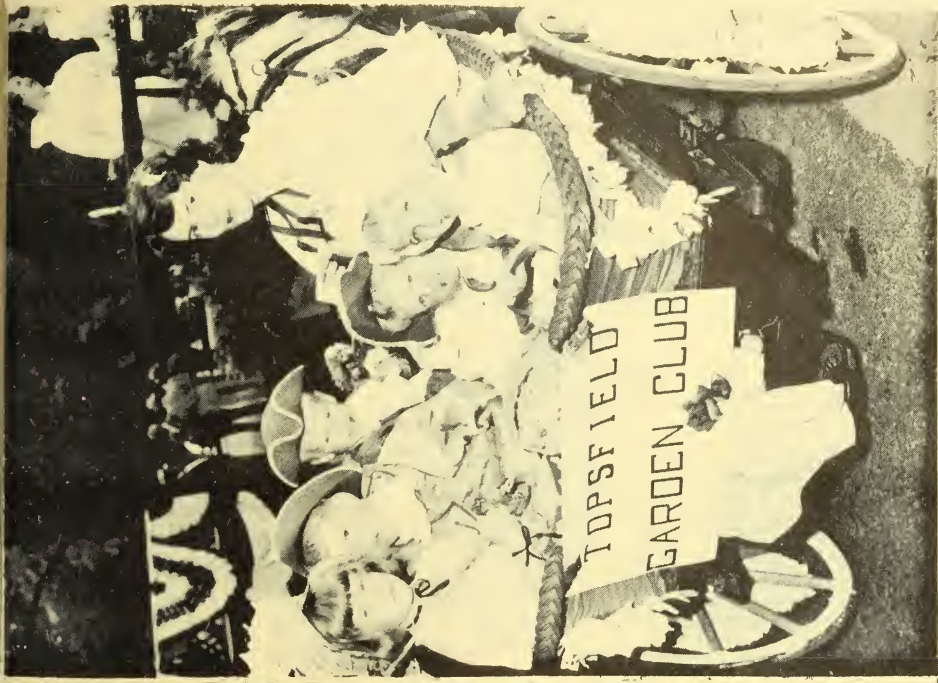
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Several hundred visitors, most of them from neighboring towns and cities, visited the open houses and gardens on Thursday. The itinerary was planned by the Committee headed by Elmer Foye, Chairman, with Mrs. Alexander Houston, Secretary. James Castle, William B. Cowen, Franklin Balch, Mrs. Russell C. Smith, Mrs. James Duncan Phillips, Eugene M. Dow, Mrs. Elmer Foye, Mrs. John Gamans, Mrs. M. Theresa Plummer, Miss Amelia Plummer and Daniel Fuller members of the Committee.

Hostesses at the houses were: Parson Capen house, built in 1683, Mrs. Elmer Foye, Miss Olive Dingle, Mrs. Charles Peck, with Mrs. Herbert Whittier braiding a mat; Andrews-Carothers house, 1675, Mrs. C. J. Carothers, Miss Amelia Plummer, with Mrs. Russell Smith doing Jacobean crewel work; Windridge Farm, 1772, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent H. Wellman, Bradford Wellman, Mrs. Joseph Leonard, Miss Katharine Wellman, Miss Helen King, Miss Louise Haynes, Miss Nathalie Howe, Mrs. B. H. Ragle, Mrs. William Chisholm, with Mrs. Wilfred Hay hooking a rug; Meredith Farm barn, modern, shown by 4-H club boys; Abbott's, 1700, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Abbott, Miss Ann Abbott, Mrs. William Benson, Mrs. Joseph Robins, with Mrs. C. Lawrence Bond, spinning; Benjamin English's, 1765, Mrs. Benjamin English, Mrs. Godfrey Torrey, Mrs. Robert Hardy, Mrs. Richard Ingraham, with Mrs. Alexander Houston, piecing quilt; Mrs. Katherine Schuyler Choate's, 1814, Mrs. Katherine Schuyler Choate, Mrs. Henry Powning, Mrs. Dunbar Lockwood, with Mrs. James Duncan Phillips doing needlepoint.

Refreshments were served in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Sargent H. Wellman's estate from 1 to 5 P.M., by the following members of the Topsfield Garden club: Mrs. Harold Mills, Jr., Mrs. Curtis Campbell, Mrs. Thomas O'Keefe, Mrs. Seth Kelsey, Mrs. John Peirce, Mrs. Rudolph C. Dick, Jr., and Mrs. Roger Edwards.

John R. Gould, one of the town blacksmiths who has been working at his trade here over fifty years gave a demonstration of horse shoeing in his shop on Central Street.



Chief Marshall George L. Goodrich leading the Parade | Pony Cart with Children-Topsfield Garder Club





The Judges' Stand at the Parade



Conversion of the Indians - The 'Most Outstanding' Float





Iceland - The "Most Artistic" Float



Boxford Historical Society - The "Best Historical" Float



Boxford Cub Scouts - The 'Best Youth' Float



Topsfield Cub Scouts





American Legion Float



Village Guild Float

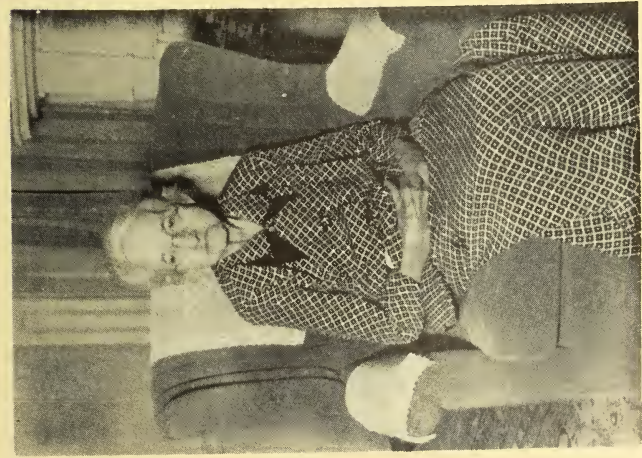


Stage Coach with Descendants of Governor Bradford



P.T.A. Float Showing Early School





Mrs. Mary Jackson, 99



Mrs. Isabelle Ford, 90



Mrs. Flora Lake, 95



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Towne, 91



Mr. Augustus H. Jenkins, 89



Mrs. Mary E. Wilkins, 91



Mrs. Mary Poor, 93

## SPORTS EVENTS

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A large group of boys and girls participated in the various races for children from six to twelve years of age. The winners were as follows: 50 yard dash, girls, 6-8, Linda Froburg, first, Susan Woodman, second, Virginia Ballard, third; 50 yard dash, boys, 6-8, Joseph Pirotta, first, Cap Ballard, second, Robert Beaumont, third; potato bag race, girls 8-10, Gail Benson, first, Charlotte Sullivan, second, Carmen Marciano, third; potato bag race, boys 8-10, Ronald Scribner, first, Kenneth Greenwood, second, William Welch, third; three-legged race, boys and girls 10-12, David Ives and John Goggin, first, Gail Benson and Janice Houston, second, Arthur Froburg and Priscilla Bond, third; relay race, boys and girls 10-12, David Ives, Janice Houston, Charlotte Sullivan, John Collins, Joseph Swindell, Joan Woodman, Arthur Froburg, John Worgan, first prizes; Gail Benson, John Goggin, Priscilla Bond, William Welch, second prizes; Warren Rockwell, Jr., Irma Davidson, Jack Sullivan, William Ingraham, third prizes; 100 yard dash, girls 10-12, Charlotte Sullivan, first, Gail Benson, second, Joan Woodman, third; 100 yard dash, boys 10-12, Joseph Swindell, first, David Ives, second, Arthur Froburg, third; sack races, girls 6-8, Martha Ives, first, Sally Ann Ives, second, Linda Froburg, third; sack race, boys 6-8 Thomas Ralph, first, Joseph Pirotta, second, Peter Poor, third.

Edward Welch, in charge of the junior sports program, was assisted by Dr. Roger J. Edwards.

The sports events for older children, in charge of Robert I. Woodbury of the sports committee, were carried out in accordance with the planned schedule Saturday afternoon with small regard for the pouring rain. Prizes were won by the following girls and boys:

50-yard dash, junior girls: 1st, Joan Benson; 2nd, Gail Benson; 3rd, Priscilla Bond.

100-yard dash, senior boys: 1st, George Gamble; 2nd, Carleton Nix; 3rd, Robert Titus.

Relay race, junior girls: 1st, Joan Benson, Janice Houston; 2nd, Gail Benson, Priscilla Bond.

Relay race, junior boys: 1st, Charles Wrest, Philip Walsh; 2nd, David Ives, Joseph Swindell; 3rd, David Woodbury, Arthur Froburg.



Relay race, senior boys: 1st, George Gamble, Ronald Giovannacci; 2nd, Carleton Nix, Robert Titus; 3rd, Stephen Woodbury, Stephen Tierney.

Potato race, junior girls: 1st, Joan Benson; 2nd, Gail Benson; 3rd, Priscilla Bond; junior boys: 1st, David Ives; 2nd, Richard Ingraham; 3rd, John Worgan.

Mile run, senior boys: First, Robert Sullivan; second, Gordon Smith; third, David Woodbury.

High jump, senior boys: First, Stephen Tierney, 4 feet, 7 inches.

Baseball throw, junior boys: First, Leo Brissette; second, Salvatore Pirotta; third, Richard Ingraham; senior boys: First, Ronald Giovannacci; second, George Gamble; third, Robert Titus.

Football kick, junior boys: First, Salvatore Pirotta; second, Robert Walsh; third, Calvin Titus; senior boys, first, Stephen Tierney; second, George Gamble; third, Robert Titus.

Awards for the events were medals that will be lasting mementoes of the Tercentennial.

The sports committee grew sadder by the hour as Saturday's downpour failed to weaken and the night program had to be postponed.

The ball game, under floodlights, with the New England Hoboes meeting the Topsfield Town Team will be held Tuesday at 8.15, and fireworks will follow immediately afterward. It is predicted that, after two or three day rest from tercentenary activities, a larger crowd will be on hand for the climax.

## THE PARADE

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This little town of 1400 persons mushroomed into a miniature city within a short space of time Saturday as thousands of out-of-town visitors streamed in to witness the largest and most colorful parade in the history of the town. Luck was with Archer Andrews' parade committee, for the sun, which was to retire from active duty for the remainder of the day only minutes after the conclusion of the parade, shone brightly throughout the time of the procession. Attendance was estimated at 8000.

Chief Marshal George L. Goodridge and his aides, Chester Williams and William Cowen, preceded by State Troopers and followed by the town selectmen, George Tilton, John Gamans, and Leslie Ray, set the pace for the picturesque parade. The originality expressed in the various floats was amazing, and each one showed that no amount of time or energy was spared in its construction.

The prize of \$50 for the "most outstanding" was awarded unanimously to *St. Rose's* for its float depicting the part of the Catholic priest in the conversion of the Indians to Christianity. Emile Beaumont portrayed the missionary; Miss Martha Wells, angel; Indian Chief, Charles Denault; kneeling Indian, Leo Brissette; and two devils, James Hurley and Emile Guay.

The \$25 award for the "most artistic" was presented to the *Essex County Horse Breeders Assn.* for the float entitled "Ice-land." With penetrating blue, pure white and sparkling silver as a background for beautiful girls, handsome men, snow white Eskimo dogs, and pretty flowers, this entry of the frozen north was an easy winner.

The second prize of \$25 for the "most historical" was awarded to the *Boxford Historical society* for its chronological presentation of the town's history.

The greenery, the land acquired from the Indians; Harry L. Cole, first settler who cleared the land, built homes, tilled the soil; the First Church, Raymond Perley, minister; the first school, Esther Perley, teacher, Karen Waters, pupil; Thruout her growth, Boxford has been protected by her patriotic citizens; Revolutionary War, Richard Spofford, carrying gun, canteen and cartridge box used during that war; Civil War,

Lawrence Frizell, with exact accoutrements; Spanish War, Alfred Nason, wearing his own uniform; First World War, Arthur Emery, wearing his own uniform; Second World War, Richard Hopping and Charlotte Austin, W.A.C., wearing their own uniforms; State Guard, John Whittier, wearing uniform of Lieut. Alfred Nason.

The \$15 prize for the best youth group was given to the *Liberty Cub Scouts* of Boxford for a realistic camping scene. Two things made this an unusual entry; one was the fact that smoke issued from the torch carried by the Statue of Liberty, and the second was the real campfire. The boys cooked frank-forts while the parade was in progress and stopped at the reviewing stand to present each judge with a well-cooked "hot dog".

The \$10 award went to the *Topsfield 4-H Dairy club* for its cart containing live cows, driven by William and Norman Rust.

Out of 28 floats in the parade to choose from, no one envied the judges task of selecting the prize winners, but all were pleased with their decisions. The judges were Paul R. Kimball, chief marshal of the 1900 parade; Gilbert L. Steward, William Coolidge, Patrick Collins, Danvers, and Dr. J. H. Cunningham, Boston, both aides in the last celebration parade, Dudley P. Rogers, a marshal in the 1900 parade, and Anthony A. Bonzagni, chief deputy of the registry of motor vehicles.

Mrs. Dunbar Lockwood of Boxford substituted as a Judge of the parade for Dr. J. H. Cunningham of Boston who was unable to attend because of illness.

There were many other floats of local organizations that deserve special mention. Among these were: *American Legion*, enlistment posters on the sides of a closed truck, rifles, and red, white and blue streamers, driven by Leonard Pace; *American Legion Auxiliary*, hood of truck completely covered with red poppies, red cloth on body, emblem on doors—all materials on this float were purchased from disabled veterans; *Rebekahs*, two scenes in one, on truck decorated with lodge colors of pink and green—Mrs. Harold Banks as Rebekah at the well, Mrs. Edith Andrews as patient in wheel chair and Mrs. Andrew Farrar as visiting Rebekah; *Grange*, replica of float entered in 1900 parade—farm wagon, drawn by two horses driven by Charles Spaulding, with Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Balentine, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Greaves, Mrs. George Tilton, Mrs. Warren Tilton, Mrs. Charles Spaulding, with her grandson in cradle and granddaughter by her side. *Com-*



*munity club*, Mrs. M. Theresa Plummer, Mrs. Bessie L. Fiske, Mrs. Alice G. Dow, Mrs. James Duncan Phillips and Marcia Ingraham and Mary Lee Gavigan; *P.T.A.* tractor-drawn farm wagon, Campbell Steward, driver; James Swindell, teacher; Jack Collins, bad boy; Jane Fessenden, visiting parent; pupils, Robert Walsh, Caroline Fessenden, Barbara Banks, Patsy Pym, Priscilla Owen, Douglas King; *Village guild*, Feminine styles and homemaking through the years, Mrs. C. Lawrence Bond, Mrs. Kenneth Ingalls, Mrs. Robert Hardy, Mrs. Leslie B. Fales, Mrs. Alexander Houston, Mrs. Robert Ives, Mrs. Richard Ingraham; horses driven by Arthur Hardy.

The local *Cub Scouts'* covered wagon with its water barrel tied on back, driven by Donald Holloway, was greatly enjoyed, as were the Topsfield Garden club and local Brownie pony carts. In the former were June Mills, Gilbert Campbell, Dickie Mills, Thomas Campbell, Ann Ballard, and Miss Susan Abbott. The *Ladies' society* float was unable to enter because, as might have been the case years ago, a tire came off the wheel of the surrey which was to have been used. Mr. and Mrs. William Skeffington, Jane English and Sidney Hurlburt, who were to have been on their way to church in the surrey, rode on the stage coach instead.

The *stage coach*, entered and driven by Horton Bradstreet, carried eight direct descendants of Gov. Bradstreet and Parson Capen. They were David and Dana Jordan, second cousins (once removed) of the driver, Mrs. Dana Jordan and son, Edward; Bradstreet's nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Walker, and the three Donaldson grandchildren.

The New Meadows horse-drawn fire wagon, equipped with ladders and buckets, was driven by Calvin Watson. The *Kelsey nursery* entry displaying a beautiful tree, a gift to the town, was very popular.

Many are still talking about the Fair Grounds *Joyland* float in the parade, which would undoubtedly have taken a prize had there been a commercial division. The Judges gave it a great deal of consideration at any rate. With its colorful merry-go-round, horses, airplanes, boats and steam train, pretty passengers and delightful clown, it certainly was an attractive entry and added much to the pleasure of the parade.

The four bands in the parade were all any one could wish for. The Boys in Green bugle and drum corps, sponsored by the Order of the Sons of Italy from Haverhill, performed intricate formations while marching, and the Lt. Norman Prince drum and bugle corps, V.F.W., Malden was precision personified.

At the close of the parade, the Lt. Prince post corps thrilling exhibition on the school field was curtailed by the sudden rain storm. In spite of the down-pour, the three-time National Champions played until the bleachers were emptied. It was with real regret that this part of the program was cut short.

The parade committee, which planned the Tercentenary parade for everyone's enjoyment consisted of Archer Andrews, Chairman; Yolanda Marciano, secretary; Mrs. Kenneth Ingalls, John Gamans, Leslie Ray, Wilfred Linfield, Horton Bradstreet, Daniel Fuller, Richard Ingraham, Harris Giles, Harold Fletcher, S. Warren Forrest, Harold Jordan, Mrs. Benjamin English and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ives.

## THE BANQUET

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The tercentenary banquet, held in the tent Saturday evening, was greatly enjoyed, even though the miniature cloudburst caused a few guests to change their seats hurriedly for those slightly less damp. The American Legion band, directed by Miss Priscilla Duclow, helped diminish the roar of rain on the big top, while those under the seams of the tent donned rain coats or caught drops of water in empty glasses. Without the floor in the tent, conditions would have been much worse.

Before food was served, all present rose and repeated the hymn, written by Mrs. Ada B. Dow, for the 250th anniversary celebration in 1900.

The 500 persons present enjoyed the delicious turkey dinner, and the banquet was one of the best events of the whole celebration. Pictures were taken of the group, from either end of the tent, and orders for these were taken for later delivery.

Toastmaster Henry F. Long, from whom witty words flowed as freely as water through the tent, introduced the honor guests seated at the head table. They were Cong. William H. Bates, Judge George B. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Tilton, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Gamans, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie S. Ray, selectmen of Topsfield, Selectman and Mrs. Lawrence R. Stone, Hamilton, Selectman and Mrs. Charles W. Davis, Wenham, Selectman and Mrs. Conor Lundergen, Danvers, Selectman Harry Cole, Boxford, Albert M. Dodge, of the 250th celebration, his niece, Miss Grace Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Campbell, Paul R. Kimball, Rev. Joseph F. Bracken, Rev. and Mrs. Roderic W. Hurlburt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Pethybridge, Miss Athelene Stevens, Ernest S. Dodge, Peabody Museum, Selectman and Mrs. Brainard C. Wallace, Ipswich, Mrs. Robert C. Jones, Wenham Historical society, Mrs. Henry F. Long, J. Frederic Hussey, vice-president of Essex Institute. Mr. Pethybridge gave awards to children who entered winning posters in the outdoor good manners contest, sponsored by the Topsfield Garden club, and to winners in the community home improvement contest, sponsored by the decorations committee of the tercentennial. The winners of floats in the parade were announced at the same time.

Toastmaster Long asked all those to rise who had attended the last celebration and quite a large number responded, and Mr. and Mrs. Sargent H. Wellman stood when a request was made for those who had been to Toppesfield, England.



*Mr. Henry F. Long*, Toastmaster, after a few preliminary remarks about the rain welcomed the people of Topsfield and congratulated the various members of the Committee in charge of the Tercentenary Celebration, then called on *Mr. Charles E. Pethybridge*, retired Principal of Topsfield High School, and chairman of the Executive committee for the celebration.

*Mr. Pethybridge*:—I want to thank everyone who has helped to make this celebration such a success. In Topsfield we are rugged individualists and although we have great differences of opinion at times, especially regarding dog racing and horse racing, still we have gotten together on this celebration and you will all agree that it has been wonderfully successful. In spite of the rain we have all had a good time. The Parade was outstanding and showed the great efforts of our people. The decisions were unanimous, and the awards were as follows:

Outstanding Float	\$50	Won by the Ladies' of St. Rose, Topsfield.
Most Artistic Float	\$25	Won by Essex County Horsebreeders' Association.
Historical Float	\$25	Won by Boxford Historical Society.
Youth's Group 1st Prize	\$15	Won by Liberty Boy Scouts, Boxford.
Youth's Group 2nd Prize	\$10	Won by 4-H Club of Topsfield.

With the aim of improving and beautifying the community as a whole, the Decorations Committee of the Tercentenary Celebration sponsored a Community Improvement Contest. It is hoped that the participants have found enjoyment in working for the contest, and real pride in the growing beauty of their own properties and their community.

The first five prizes are awarded to:

The Warren Forrests—for newly developed home.

The T. A. Demars—for extensively developed home site.

The Osgood Richards

Mrs. Russell James

tied for long established homes

Mr. Belman Carter's Gulf Station—for Commercial

Honorable mention to: The Peter Blacks

The John Walshs

Gould Manor

The Fleetline Diner

Topsfield Radio & Television Shop

The Centre Grocery

Along with Community Improvement Contest, the school children participated in an Outdoor Good-manners poster contest under the auspices of the Topsfield Garden Club:

Winners:

*5th Grade*

Roland Kuchel

Phyllis Wade

Arthur Froburg

*6th Grade*

Philip Walsh

Robert Richardson

Philip Hagar

*7th Grade*

Robert Garrity

Thomas Silva

Caroline Desmarais

*8th Grade*

Emil Guay

Calvin Titus

Priscilla Watson

*The Toastmaster* called upon Father Bracken, of St. Rose's, and Rev. Hurlburt who rose to their feet in acknowledgment.

*The Toastmaster*: I also want to introduce to you one of our good friends from a neighboring community, a man with whom some people have had a great deal of social contact. A good many have become interested in agricultural pursuits and thus have met him in connection with his particular interest in that field, and some have become acquainted with him in what we call the legal side of our lives. Therefore, I am going to ask Judge Sears to stand up so that we can greet him. I want to advise Judge Sears that he has been sentenced to become a lifelong Topsfield man *Emeritus*.

The Toastmaster called upon Mr. Curtis Campbell, Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee:

*Mr. Curtis Campbell*:—When approached to be chairman of the celebration committee, I was told, as all prospective chairmen are told, that I would have very few details to attend to—my job would be simply to prod a few people from time to time. Well, it actually worked out that way, except that there was practically no prodding necessary.

At a gathering like this, it often is appropriate to call upon all committee members, and all others who have helped in one way or another, to stand as a body and be recognized. But it is not practical this evening. There would be almost no one left seated to express appreciation.

I shall limit myself, therefore, first to a word of appreciation of Mr. Long's splendid contribution as toastmaster this evening, and for his many contributions to the Topsfield Historical Collections in years past. Next, I want to say that this celebration would be far from complete without recognizing the great work of the late George Francis Dow. He was editor of the very extensive Topsfield Historical Collections,

wrote the History of Topsfield, was chairman and gave the historical address at the 1900 celebration, and was active in the restoration of the Parson Capen House. These efforts of his, and his tireless work in many other ways, have contributed greatly to the reputation and fine community spirit of Topsfield, which reputation and spirit were the real bases for the success of this present celebration.

Let us continue to follow Mr. Dow's fine lead, and take impetus from this 1950 celebration, so as to strengthen our community spirit and reputation, support the Topsfield Historical Society, and build a strong cultural basis for the town's future development. I especially want to leave these thoughts with you, and to once again express my deep appreciation for the privilege of serving as general chairman for the celebration.

*The Toastmaster* called upon Mr. Tilton, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Topsfield to say a few words:

*Mr. Tilton:*—We are more than grateful to see so many here tonight to enjoy this banquet with us and we feel that the celebration from the start to the present time has been a real success, a time that many of you will remember for years to come.

I came to this town fifty years ago last fall and I liked it so well that I have stayed here ever since. Some of you would perhaps like to take a trip with me down Washington St., as the town was 50 years ago. At that time I lived at the South end. When you got down into the village, there was the grocery store of Trowbridge's. William Long's livery stables were on the left hand side, and Ira Long's blacksmith shop was in the rear. There was a drugstore and a postoffice. There was the old Herrick building, where there was a shoe shop. The Grange met over the First National Store at that time. There was a shoe shop in the rear operated by Bailey. On Central Street there was Leach's market and Wilson's wheel-right shop and across from that was Hardy's harness shop. There was Woodbury's slaughter house.

I want to thank you all again for being here and putting your time and effort into making this event a success.

*The Toastmaster* called upon Mr. Lawrence Stone, Chairman of the Hamilton Board of Selectmen to say a few words.

*Mr. Stone:*—I wish to compliment you all on this fine gathering and bring you all best wishes from the town of Hamilton.

*The Toastmaster* called upon Mr. Charles Davis, Selectman from Wenham.



*Mr. Davis:*—It is a great privilege to be here to help you celebrate this Tercentenary. Best wishes from the Town of Wenham.

*The Toastmaster* called upon Selectman from Ipswich who merely rose in greeting. He asked Mr. Cole, Chairman of Board of Selectmen from Boxford to say a few words.

*Mr. Cole:*—It has been a privilege and pleasure to bring the best wishes of the town of Boxford to you on your Tercentenary.

*The Toastmaster* called upon Mr. Lundergen, Chairman of Board of Selectmen from Danvers.

*Mr. Lundergen:*—The town of Danvers would like to extend its congratulations, and to thank you for bringing this rain! Good Luck to you.

*The Toastmaster* mentioned that Paul Kimball, Chief Marshal back in the Parade of 1900, had come on from Seattle for the celebration, but was not present this evening.

*The Toastmaster* then introduced Congressman Bates.

*Mr. Bates:*—Mr. Toastmaster, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends: There are at least four unusual aspects in our meeting here tonight. One is that you are celebrating your 300th anniversary. That is a rare distinction because few communities have shared it with you. Secondly, regardless of what your chairman has said, I do know that an undertaking of this kind is a tremendous responsibility. I think the results of your work have been deeply appreciated. I think another unusual factor is that you have, down through the years, preserved the natural beauty with which this community was endowed by our Creator. Many times in driving around the country I have said to myself, that I was sure the Indians would have fought a lot harder had they known what we were going to do with their lands. I was advised to say only a few words. That is a difficult thing for a man in public life to do. But tonight I feel that the appropriate thing to do is to speak briefly.

If I were to talk at length I would reflect about what you are thinking and what I am thinking. Many of us think of the world today in confused terms and certainly that is true. But tonight we are gathered here in a mood of gaiety, in a spirit of levity while we enjoy the companionship of our neighbors, and surely that is one of the things we hold dear. I was indeed honored to receive your kind invitation to come here. I have been here since early afternoon and I want to let you know that I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

*The Toastmaster*:—A Tercentenary Celebration offers us the opportunity to come back and reacquaint ourselves with our town and the many early associations it holds. There is also the celebration aspect, with parades and various activities. Basically, I suppose that these Tercentenary celebrations are historical in character and serve to compel us to look back into the past and see what has happened, and perhaps learn a little of what our forefathers did. We do nothing today unless we know what was done yesterday, and our opportunity to do tomorrow, is based on what we have learned in the past. History is a very strong part of our life.

*The Toastmaster* called on Mr. Fred Hussey of the Essex Institute.

*Mr. Hussey*:—Our President, Stephen Phillips, and the three senior Vice Presidents are out on vacation. I am only pinch hitting. They are all sons of Harvard. I am a little different.—Like McCarthy, who said he sprang from nobody,—they sprang at him.

*The Toastmaster* called on Mr. Albert Dodge, who extended his greetings to all.

The banquet committee was as follows: Adrian L. Bouchard, Chairman, John R. Gould, Harry W. Fuller, Mrs. Thomas A. O'Keefe, Jr. and Mrs. Leslie S. Ray.

## BASEBALL GAME AND FIREWORKS

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On Tuesday evening the weatherman relented and cleared the way for the floodlight baseball game and fireworks on Proctor field which attracted thousands of visitors to this little town. The packed throng was variously estimated at from 2500 to 4000 persons.

Choice seats in the top center of the bleachers were occupied as early as 6.30, two hours ahead of the scheduled game between the New England Hoboes and the Topsfield Town team. The bleachers continued to fill steadily, and by game time, no seats were available. Rather than to lose out on the spectacular events of the final tercentenary program, masses of people crowded on the field behind snow-fence barriers wherever standing room and visibility concurred.

The seven-inning baseball game between the N. E. Hoboes and the local team ended in a polite score of 15-12 in the former's favor. The Hoboes' first baseman, Jerry Young of Salem, and pitcher, Pete Cerrone, were a two-man team in themselves and could easily have held the local boys scoreless.

Clothed mostly in beards and rags, the Hoboes were greeted with cheers as they filed onto the field to warm up for the big game. Their bright red patches, in strategic places, and their raccoon-less raccoon coats, derby hats, and cutaways brought many a laugh before their clever antics had a chance. Young in his striped version of what the well-dressed ball player should wear, stole the show time and time again with his superb clowning.

In spite of batting against an all-star team of almost professional calibre, the local Town team played a fine game. George Gamble and Savvy Marciano made several outstanding catches in the outfield, and Ted Welch, with a long hard drive, made a three-base hit in the first inning. Playing on the local team, were: Ted Welch, ss; George Gamble, cf; Savino Marciano, lf; Tom Ralph, Steve Woodbury, 1b; Elbridge Gilford, rf; Ted Williams, 3b; Leslie Ray, Jr., 2b; Ronnie Giovannacci, 2b; Myron Peabody, Jr., rf; Warren Giovannacci, lf; Larry Linfield, Tom Burke, Rowley, c; and Bob Jones, Rowley, p.

For the Hoboes: McDonald, ss; Lynch, cf; Ramsdell, 3b; Maloney, lf; Shea, c; Kelly, 2b; Belanger, rf; Young, 1b, and Cerrone, p. The umpires were Maguire and Moffet of Beverly, regular umpires for the Inter-town Twilight league games.



In an interesting pre-game ceremony, Chairman of the School Committee Robert I. Woodbury threw the first ball to Paul R. Kimball of Seattle, Wash., who was chief marshal of the 250th anniversary parade here. Curtis Campbell, general chairman of the Tercentenary celebration, did an adequate job of catching the Woodbury slants. Batter Kimball, despite his advanced years, looked over the pitches carefully and connected solidly with the third service midst great applause.

Officers and members of the local Athletic association also are deserving of much credit for the handling of ticket sales and many other details in connection with the presentation of the ball game. President Ted Welch, Wilfred Linfield and Leslie Fales supervised these important arrangements at the field.

Following the hilarious ball game, an exceptionally fine display of fireworks was set off at the lower end of the field. The ground pieces and aerial bombs were well divided and there was a large number of both. The Parson Capen house, outlined in red, blue, green and lavender, was greatly appreciated, and the final set piece, consisting of a boat, flag and cannon, with cross-fire from the latter, was greeted with applause.

A special citation goes to William C. Abbott who served as a one-man fireworks committee and certainly arranged a grand display, highlighted by a flaming reproduction of the Parson Capen house.

And so the week-long Tercentennial celebration, planned over long months, has finally become another history-making event in the annals of the town. Each committee conscientiously undertook its part in making the whole Tercentennial an outstanding success, and can now rest on its laurels. Saturday's sorrowful ending has been more than compensated by Tuesday's triumphant finale, and when in the year 2000 townspeople search records to ascertain in what manner this celebration was conducted, the data will honestly show that it was a lot of fun—well done.

## INCIDENTAL EVENTS

Connected with the Tercentenary celebration

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That the townspeople were conscious of the approaching celebration is shown by several events which took place before the official observance by the Town.

In 1949 the Topsfield Historical Society published a Topsfield Quiz, containing questions and answers relating to the Town. This was intended as a refresher to arouse interest in the past.

On Saturday, April 29, 1950 about fifty adults and children gathered in the Town forest to participate in the ceremony attending the planting of the redwood trees which had been given to the Town by the Topsfield Garden Club and Albert I. Hayward in connection with the Town's 300th anniversary.

Before the first tree was set in the ground, Mrs. John Peirce, President of the Topsfield Garden Club, read an interesting historical background of the giant redwoods, followed by a poem dedicated to them. Mr. Hayward planted the first tree, with the assistance of Wallace Kneeland. The ceremony was attended by Charles E. Pethybridge, retired Principal of the local school, and a member of the Executive Board of the 300th anniversary committee; John D. Whittier, Superintendent of Schools, and organizer of the Community Conservation corps; George Day, assistant scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts; Mrs. William Ballard, Den mother of the Cub Scouts; Mrs. William C. Abbott, representing the Topsfield Garden Club; Mrs. John Hurley and Mrs. Orden Owen, Brownie Leaders; Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and 4-H Club representatives as well as several interested residents.

On May 9, 1950 the Topsfield School presented "Topsfield in review", a program of important episodes in the history of the Town. This program was arranged and directed by Mrs. A. Donald Lacey, Supervisor of Music, with Mrs. Alice Warren as piano accompanist.

Episode I, 'Agawam Indians, was presented by Grade II, Miss Lawrence, teacher. Episode II, Early Settlers, by Grade IV, Mrs. Phillips, teacher. Episode III, Early Occupations—Farming, by Grade III, Miss Burnham, teacher. Episode IV, Witchcraft, by Grades I and II, Miss Shinnick, teacher. Episode V, Early Industries—Shoemaking, by Grade I, Mrs. Warren, teacher.

Episode VI, Town Meeting, presented by Grade VI, Miss Maskell, teacher. Episode VII, Early Schools, by Grades VII and VIII, Miss Eaton, teacher. Episode VIII, the Gay Nineties, by Grade V, Mrs. Whittier, teacher. Episode IX, Our American Heritage, by the High School and Glee Club. Episode X, a tableau, "Topsfield in review", concluding with the Star Spangled Banner. There also were appropriate songs with each episode.

Sunday, May 15, 1950, a large group of townspeople attended the impressive ceremony on the Library grounds, when the community tree, given by town organizations, was planted.

Sargent H. Wellman introduced James Duncan Phillips, who made an appropriate speech to the effect that the community tree was in memory of the founders of Topsfield, and that a tree was one of the most fitting memorials. He spoke of the beauty of the town, and stressed the need of planting more trees and of preserving the ones already here.

Mrs. Claude A. Cox, accompanying herself on her autoharp, sang an old Danish Folk tune, "That cause can neither be lost nor stayed." Sargent H. Wellman named the 19 organizations, donors of the 20-foot Douglas fir; Grange, P. of H., 184; Topsfield-Boxford Community club, American Legion, Topsfield Historical society, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Happy Sisters 4-H club, Ladies' society of the Congregational church, Topsfield Garden club, Ladies of St. Rose, Village guild, Rowena Rebekah lodge, Fountain lodge, I.O.O.F.: Holy Name society, Topsfield 4-H club, Topsfield P.T.A., and the Legion auxiliary.

Selectman George M. Tilton put on the first spadeful of dirt, and Curtis Campbell, chairman of the town's 300th anniversary celebration committee, put on the second. Illness prevented Albert M. Dodge, honorary chairman of the committee, from attending. Community singing of the first and last verses of "America" brought the program to a close.

On June 14, 1950, an impressive ceremony in honor of Flag day and the 300th anniversary of the town was held at the flag pole on the village green at 8.45 A.M. when a new flag, purchased by the park department, was dedicated. The exercises were attended by the entire student body and faculty of the school, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and several townspeople.

After all had formed a circle around the flag pole, Calvin A. Titus, Jr., read the governor's Flag day proclamation. Robert I. Woodbury, representing the American Legion, requested the throng to stand at attention and salute as the old

flag was lowered by the Boy Scouts, and given into the custody of the Girl Scouts.

The new 12 by 20-foot flag was attached, and as it was raised the group stood at attention and saluted while the bugler played "Colors." As the new flag waved proudly atop the flag pole, the crowd pledged allegiance and joined in singing "The Star Spangled Banner," under the direction of Mrs. Whittier's fifth grade pupils.

C. Lawrence Bond was in charge of the flag raising ceremony.

Early in August a souvenir program and map of the Town was published by the Program Committee. This contained a welcome to Topsfield by Curtis Campbell, General Chairman of the Celebration committee; resolutions passed by the Massachusetts legislature; a letter from Toppesfield, England; "the story of Topsfield" by Alice G. Dow; a tour of Topsfield with descriptions of the houses which were to be opened and other points of interest; and "I remember" by Mrs. Edith M. Andrews giving reminiscences of the events of the past fifty years. It also contained the official program and list of committees.

In honor of the Town's tercentenary the Topsfield Historical Society had made a dinner plate showing the Parson Capen house and about 1500 have been sold.

The Tercentenary guest book was signed by over 500 persons including Paul R. Kimball of Seattle, Washington, who was the chief marshal of the 250th anniversary parade; Miss Grace R. Perkins of Danvers who taught school here in 1885 (her picture with one of her classes is included in the picture exhibit at Town Hall); Mr. and Mrs. John Sedgwick of Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Sedgwick is the former Gladys Dwinell, a direct descendant of Michael Dwinell, one of the first settlers of the town; Mrs. Bertha Gould Thompson of Salem representing the ninth generation of Zaccheus Gould, and Harriet Peabody Leach, M.D. of Billerica, whose parents and their forebears,—the Perkins and Towne families, were early in Topsfield.

One of the outstanding features of the recent celebration was the loan exhibition in the local Library. Here were shown articles of furniture, clothing, including wedding gowns representing four generations of a well-known family, handwoven sheets, blankets, and coverlets of olden days. Much appreciation was expressed by the visitors, who numbered nearly 700.



In the Topsfield Historical Society's room, a case of manuscripts contained a volume of music by Jacob Kimball, who was born in Topsfield in 1761; a group of deeds of the Dwinell farm where eight generations have lived since the first Michael cleared the ground; a day book of the old Peabody sawmill, which was set up in 1672, various papers relating to the affairs of the Towne family, and a diary of Isaac Averill, in which he mentions the great earthquake in 1755.

In the lower Town Hall the Topsfield Grange arranged an exhibit of old time farming implements; a large collection of photographs of people and scenes of long ago was displayed on screens; and flower arrangements made by members of the Topsfield Garden Club were displayed.



















